

In the last three years, Los Angeles photographer Dotan Saguy spent hundreds of hours documenting the diversity of cultures, people and parades of the emblematic Venice Beach promenade. He was irresistibly attracted by his free spirit, antimaterialist and inclusive, where he also discovered that it was a breath of fresh air from the plastic culture that lives and attends there, sometimes homogenized and obsessed by celebrities.

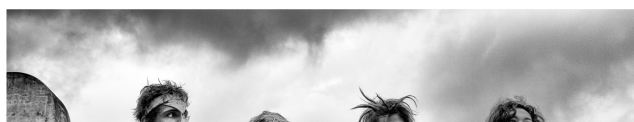
Born in a small kibbutz just south of the Lebanese border of Israel, he grew up in a modest Parisian suburb, lived in Manhattan on September 11 and moved to Los Angeles in 2003, where he now lives with his wife and two teenage children.

Saguy was with his subjects for many hours in a row to know their passions, struggles and gain their trust. As a result, it became part of the Venice Beach family of street performers, hippy tourists, surfers, bodybuilders bathed in oil and creatine, musicians, skateboarders, local vendors and people living on the street, among other inhabitants of Venice. He photographed them in raw, everyday moments that are unique in the human landscape of one of the last bastions of unadulterated freedom.

"It's a bit ironic because Venice is in many ways the antithesis of Los Angeles, but it's the place I most identify with," he says. "I love their diversity, their anti-materialism, their rebellious nature. There are many things below the surface that most tourists do not see. Tourists walk along the promenade of Venice and all they see are homeless people, fans, wild children and greased bodybuilders. They go to Venice because on the surface it looks like a circus. But if you spend enough time there, you discover that they are all people with a story to tell."



The closing of Venice Beach Freakshow was on April 30, 2017 and may have been one of the most emblematic moments of Venice Beach gentrification. After a decade of outmoded circus performances, with two-headed turtles, five-legged dogs, bearded women, slots and other cast members glorifying strangers and outcasts, Venice Beach Freakshow was forced to abandon its iconic location on the sea trip. Guilty? Snapchat that does not stop expanding and bought the building.



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A group of young hippies sing on a bench in front of the Muscle Beach Gym.



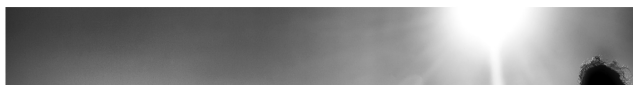
Esta foto es algo así como un misterio. El hombre mayor, quien toma el nombre de "Jingles", ha estado predicando por los derechos de los animales y un estilo de vida vegano durante muchos años desde su puesto en el paseo costero de Venecia. Tal vez le esté dando a esta joven futura madre una especie de bendición.



A weightlifter lifts a well-loaded bar while Ike Catcher performs an aerial handstand at the world-famous Muscle Beach Gym. Ike was born and raised in Austria with a Nigerian father and an Austrian mother. After a brief career in martial arts, he went on the weightlifting, winning the title of Mr. Vienna 2013. Ike enjoys exhibiting his impressive physique and posing for photos with tourists.



Una joven baila al ritmo frenético del Venice Beach Drum Circle, mientras el sol se pone sobre el océano en una tarde de verano.





An improvised performance by Elizabeth, a local artist dressed as a white bird, and Freedom, a musician who lives on the street, spontaneously becomes a group dance when a handful of spectators join. The two met after meeting for the first time at Café Gratitude that same day.



Jackson, five years old, looks at the boa constrictor while further back his mother Jenna, relaxing in the sand.



A bodybuilder enters the stage of the Mr. Muscle Beach contest. Its silhouette resembles that of the ancient Roman gladiator who enters an arena full of spectators who want to show.



Un grupo de skaters se reúnen para fumar marihuana bajo el sol frente al emblemático mural Touch of Venice en Windward Avenue.

Todas las imágenes y los comentarios corresponden a @ Datan Saguy.

Venice Beach: The last Days of a Bohemian Paradise se estrenará en los Estados Unidos el 7 de



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... como eventos. Los tres días de la semana también se exhiben en los mejores centros de arte de agosto coincidiendo con una exposición en la Venice Arts Gallery de Los Ángeles, hasta el 21 de septiembre de 2018. Muchas de las personas que Saguy retrató, estarán presentes para celebrar la publicación del libro que es profundamente personal para ellos.

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