

Diego Ortiz Mugica

Photographs

by Maria Carolina Baulo

Diego Ortiz Mugica is a renowned Argentine fine art photographer, specializing in the zone system technique and a large format camera. He lives in the Patagonia and most of his famous works refer to that landscape, glaciers and fly fishing. He has exhibited them in important museums and cultural centers of Argentina – National Museum of Decorative Arts, National Museum of Fine Arts, Recoleta’s Cultural Center, Modern Art Museum, all in Buenos Aires - as well as in international galleries in New York, Washington, Florence, Frankfurt, Buenos Aires and Palma de Mallorca. Many times awarded and having participated in important international art fairs -arte-BA, the International Biennale of Contemporary Art of Florence, Art Chicago, Art San Francisco, Art Frankfurt, DCFW 2010 -Washington DC photo week and Buenos Aires Photo-. Diego has published his works in catalogues, books for museums, and his work is collected by foundations and in private collections. In 2008, he presented his book “Fly Fishing Moments” in the Consulate of Argentina in New York. Some of his photographs belong to the Argentine National Museum of Fine Arts collection, the MEC Museum, Arcade and Rabobank Foundations, and private collections all around the world. He participated of the Great Photographers of the Twentieth Century exhibition- Smith’s collection. During 2010 he produced the book “Parques Nacionales Argentinos”, the official book of the Administration of the National Parks, supported by the Presidency of Argentina.



Tormentasobreel Glacier
Perito Moreno Glacier, Santa Cruz, Argentina
Schneider 150mm lens on a 4x5 camera
1/15th second at f22
T-Max 100 developed in T-Max RS developer at a dilution of 1/9
Fiber Print



Manhattan, NYC
Schneider 90mm lens on a 4x5 camera.
1/60th sec @ f8
T-Max 100 film and T-Max RS Developer
Fiber print



Mill Valley, CA
Schneider 90mm lens on a 4x5 camera
Exposure - 2 seconds @ f16
T-Max 100, T-Max RS Developer
Fiber Print

Diego has been taking pictures for over 30 years; he started at 12. Running away from some kids at school he discovered the school's lab where he saw, accidentally, some people processing papers in a tray and how the image magically appeared. At that time, he started his education in photography. At the age of 14 he was already working for a rugby magazine. He has solid studies when it comes to technique: he started with Pedro Luis Raota in Argentina, the first teacher that trusted and supported his work. In his studio he took his first zone system seminar and started studying Ansel Adams works. Diego recognizes he carries a strong imprint of the California teachers: Weston, Adams and John Sexton. He learned from their technique and tried to add his personal point of view. Sexton accepted Diego to study with him beginning in 1998 when he attended his first workshop, "The expressive Black and White" and a second one "Fine Tuning the Print". Both experiences with Sexton became a hinge in his career; a very generous and exquisite photographer that changed Diego's professional life. Also getting to work with Silvia Zawadski and Dick Dickerson- Doctors in Chemistry, creators of the T. grain and T. Max films, the X. Tol developer and the T.400 CN film., was also crucial in his career.

Diego combines digital and analog technology. He has limited editions of each work and as he gains recognition and popularity, series reduce. Since 2007 he produces 10 original copies and 10 digital ones. Some series are thematic: "Women's Landscapes", "Basics" "National Parks" and other simply catalogued under Open Landscapes, Abstractions, Portraits, Sports or his latest work and still in process: "Delta del Rio de la Plata".

Diego believes he photographs as he lives. He feels something coming from the inside, which guides his inspiration. But he never relies just on that and highlights the importance of hard study. Working in commercial photography for so many years allows him to manage a technique and work at high speed. Those previous works gave him the artisanship he can show in this author's works. His commercial work divides in 3 periods: he worked 12 year at the Antorchas Foundation and the National Fine Arts Academy in Argentina, as a photographer on the restoration of works of art; he worked as a technical photographer in a project named Tarea Foundation a joint project of the Academy and the Antorchas Foundation where they restored colonial easel paintings and also working at his own studio for leading brands in the Argentine market. During weekends and holidays he worked on his author's photography and actually he has his own gallery in Patagonia and a school in Buenos Aires.

"When people see these landscapes, they all discover Patagonia is a place they want to visit sometime in their lives", he says. Diego always tried to express his own aesthetic even when doing commercial pictures. He needs the image to impact our sensibility. He takes his camera, his photometer and just walks; things then happen without any of his control. If the technique is fine and the equipment is ok, he lets the magic appear and sometimes the less he thinks about it, life surprises him the most.



El Comienzo
Delta del Rio, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Schneider 150mm lens on a 4x5 camera
1/5th sec @ f32
T-Max 100 and T-Max RS developer
Fiber Print

In October 2012, Diego Ortiz Mugica will exhibit his works, once more, in the city of New York. "The Affordable Art Fair": Diego's work will be in the gallery "Kaller Fine Arts". The Tunnel, Chelsea – 28th Street at 11th Avenue. October 4, 5, 6 and 7.