



Above: Lotus, Kashmir, India 1985
Cover: Prayer Flag and Chortens, Ladakh, India 1988
Inside: Blind Musician, Kashmir, India 1985

A LANDMARK PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNERSHIP

In 2006, Phoenix Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona in Tucson inaugurated a highly innovative and unprecedented collaboration to bring the finest in photography to Phoenix Art Museum visitors. It established a vibrant new photography exhibition program at the Museum, while bringing the Center's world-renowned collections to new and larger audiences.

The Center for Creative Photography is one of the world's largest repositories of materials chronicling photography. Founded in 1975, it now houses 3.8 million archival items and 80,000 fine prints by photographers including Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Harry Callahan, Aaron Siskind, Frederick Sommer, W. Eugene Smith, Louise Dahl-Wolfe, and Garry Winogrand.

One of the nation's leading art museums, Phoenix Art Museum presents international exhibitions of the world's greatest art and features a collection that spans the centuries and the globe – American, Asian, contemporary, European, Latin American, and Western American art, and fashion design. Not to be missed are the Thorne Miniature Rooms, the interactive family gallery PhxArtKids, great shopping and dining, and a variety of public events.

Now, through the combined efforts of these two organizations, Phoenix Art Museum visitors will experience unparalleled excellence in the field of photography in the Museum's Doris and John Norton Gallery for the Center for Creative Photography. ■

**All photographs © 2008 Linda Connor and courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery, San Francisco.
The exhibition tour is organized by Hal Fischer Associates, San Francisco.**

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CENTER FOR CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

1030 North Olive Road
Tucson, Arizona 85721
520-621-7968 | www.creativephotography.org

Phoenix Art Museum

1625 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
602-257-1222 | PhxArt.org

Design by Studio A



Odyssey

The Photographs of LINDA CONNOR

Odyssey

The Photographs of LINDA CONNOR

Doris and John Norton Gallery for the Center for Creative Photography, Phoenix Art Museum
NOVEMBER 30, 2008, TO MARCH 8, 2009

Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson
MARCH 27 TO JUNE 21, 2009

Odyssey: The Photographs of Linda Connor reflects an artist's pursuit of diverse and compelling subjects from around the world. Connor has worked extensively in India, Indonesia, Turkey, Cambodia, Egypt, Tibet, and the American Southwest. Included in the exhibition are images from the past three decades.

Connor's photographs reveal the essence of her subjects, yielding a sense of timelessness while visually evoking the intangible. She uses a distinctive technique. A large-format view camera allows her to achieve remarkable clarity and rich detail. Her prints are created by direct contact of the 8x10-inch negative on printing-out paper, exposed and developed using sunlight. Toned and fixed with gold chloride, the prints have a warmth, luminosity, and delicacy seldom found in standard photographic printing.

After studying with revered American photographers Harry Callahan and Aaron Siskind, Connor went on to a distinguished teaching career at the San Francisco Art Institute, where she has taught undergraduate and graduate students since 1969. Although her work has been widely exhibited and published, *Odyssey* is a comprehensive and cohesive exhibition representing thirty years of her photographs. She has composed a sequence to guide viewers into making unexpected associations, providing a more poetic way to view her images.

Connor has been involved in many aspects of this presentation, from selecting the images to sequencing and exhibition design. By grouping the prints and not describing them with individual labels, she encourages viewers to fall into a photographic odyssey. This arrangement seems to dislodge our sense of linear time, concrete place, and documentation. The

cumulative experience may be about tranquility, spirituality, meditation, or discovery.

Connor embraces a wide range of subject matter, connecting the physical and the spiritual world. Just as sacred art evokes deep meaning even without an explicit understanding, Connor hopes her photographs serve a similar metaphorical function. Upon entering Chartres Cathedral, for example, one feels transported into another realm, regardless of religious beliefs. Connor's images share this transformative nature as they transcend the boundaries of subject, culture, and time. She brings an equal amount of attention to a rock in the desert as she does when she photographs a temple.

Her photographs also capture elements of tradition in everyday life, such as the purposeful way people arrange their surroundings or the power of light to transform a space. The complex relationship between photography and time also figures centrally in her work. How can a photograph be made at a specific moment and yet represent an indistinct, ageless quality? Connor encourages this ambiguity, promoting a "porous" view of time.

Among her images are prints she has made from nineteenth-century astronomical glass plate negatives from the Lick Observatory archives. These images inspire contemplation of the spiritual and the scientific, culture and nature, and wonderment and knowledge.

Connor's engagement with global cultures is particularly timely. By contemplating the sacred, she promotes heightened attentiveness to that which is ultimately unknowable but infinitely creative. Above all, her work celebrates the interconnectedness, intricacy, and beauty of the world. ■

ALTERNATIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESSES

Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Instructor: Chad White

Join this workshop to explore the Van Dyke process, an alternative process contemporary photographers use to enhance the hand-made quality of images. Participants will create papers and develop images using this method. *Pre-registration required; call 602-307-2054. \$45 Museum members; \$55 non-members.*

MEET THE ARTIST

Saturday, January 31, 2 p.m.

Linda Connor discusses her motivations, processes, and resulting work in *Odyssey*, on view in the Norton Photography Gallery.

ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Odyssey: The Photographs of Linda Connor, published by Chronicle Books, features all of the photographs in the exhibition plus an interview with the artist.

