larry broutman

eye on africa

Hermann Hall Gallery Lounge
Hermann Hall

June 23 - September 30, 2005

art.iit.edu
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This exhibit of large format images explores the power of the eye of the photographer to capture the essence of his subjects, the people, wildlife, and landscape of Southern and East Africa; and a focus on a subject's eyes that nearly overwhelms the landscape he finds them in.

HUB Corridor Lounge Gallery  
Hermann Union Building  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
2241 South Federal Street, Chicago, IL 60616

June 23 - September 30, 2005  

exhibition hours:  
Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

for additional information, summer hours, and related events:  
art.iit.edu  
or  
312-567-5293

African Elephant (c) 2003 by Larry Broutman
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Hermann Hall Gallery Lounge, Hermann Hall, 3241 South Federal Street, Chicago, IL 60616  312-567-5293, art@iit.edu
Larry Broutman has a passion for travel, particularly to remote areas of the world. During the past fifteen years he has traveled to all seven continents and even included a trip to the North Pole aboard a Russian nuclear icebreaker. He has visited hill tribes in Asia, nomadic tribes in Africa, and touring in India and other Himalayan countries. A desire to document these travel experiences sparked his enthusiasm in photography. His interest in photographing other cultures eventually broadened to travel and outdoor photography, or as Larry describes it, "photographing images of the natural world." Larry has specialized in photographing people, wildlife and landscapes. He has studied and toured with some of the best-known documentary and nature photographers in the field.

In this exhibit Larry covers the Eastern and Southern parts of Africa. Places such as: Uganda, Zambia, Namiba, Kenya, Botwana, and South Africa. The range of photographs includes people, wildlife, and landscapes. The wildlife includes the expected: leopards, cheetahs, gorillas, baboons, elephants, rhinoceros, wildebeest, zebras, hippopotamus, and giraffes; along with maybe the unexpected, the malachite kingfisher and the lilac breasted roller.

Imagine yourself as Larry and what it might have felt like as he approached his subjects and what they may have considered of his presence. Do they simply tolerate or even accept him? Are they afraid of him? Is he afraid of them? Do they know that he could never be a threat to them? How close does he need to get to them? How much closer would you venture? How do you place yourself at that point where both of you are at comfort with each other?

Consider how he captures them; they seem to project an overwhelming power by their mere presence. Many of his images show his subjects in restful positions, as if he as caught them unaware of him. At rest they seem even more powerful then we would naturally expect them to be. They exhibit a striking majesty of power simply at rest.

In many of the images the eyes of his subjects overwhelm the incredible landscapes he finds them in. Consider what draws you into these images. Their piercing eyes, showing sadness some of time, a possible resignation to where they find themselves to be other times, or simply an acceptance of the visitor.

In the landscapes, consider the multiple layers, usually from foreground to background - the contrast of the lush with the weather beaten. Consider the range of colors Larry is able to capture in a single landscape; enhanced by the highlights of the caught light.

Very few of these images show the normal day-to-day, the life and death struggle his subjects surely endure. The focus seems to be more on the relationship of the subject and their place in the landscape; the quiet majesty and power of the people, wildlife, and landscape of Africa.

These color prints originate from 35 mm slides. Larry uses Nikon film equipment with lens up to 600mm. The production process starts with drum scanning to create an appropriate digital file. Fine art quality prints are produced on Fuji Crystal Archive photographic paper using laser output from a Light Jet or Lambda printer.

In 1967 he joined the faculty of IIT as Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanics, rising in 1970 to Professor of Materials Engineering in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. In 1984 Larry founded L. J. Broutman & Associates, a consulting engineering firm and plastics testing laboratory, while continuing his IIT career as Research Professor in the MMAE Department; a position he currently holds. During his professional career he was a prolific research investigator and author, publishing 170 technical articles and authoring/co-editing twelve text and reference books. As a photographer, his images have been sold to corporations, private collectors and travel publications.

Additional information and images of Larry Broutman’s photography is available at: www.broutpix.com