

# Distinctive Image

featuring...

**Bailey L. Donnally, FPSA, PPSA**

Lake Forest, Illinois

The *PSA Journal* continues its *Distinctive Image* series this time featuring an internationally renowned physicist known for his research and teaching, who is equally celebrated as an internationally distinguished photographer recognized for his mastery of black and white photography. For seven years **Bailey L. Donnally, FPSA, PPSA**, was listed in the Photographic Society of America's (PSA) *Who's Who* as one of the top 50 monochrome print exhibitors in the world; so when the *Journal* went looking for a black and white *Distinctive Image Artist*, Bailey Donnally, from Lake Forest, Illinois was the ideal candidate.

Bailey's love for photography began when he was only thirteen years old and his grandparents gave him a Brownie Camera. Five years later, in 1948, he won his first major Photography award: the grand prize in the *Kodak National High School Photo Contest*. Since that time Bailey has won thousands of honors for individual photographs including the John Mudd Award, the Wellington Lee Award and the Pictorial Print Division (PPD) Medal. But the awards that meant the most to

him were the 4 prestigious Kinsley Awards: the Kinsley Awards, at one time sponsored by Kodak, were given for the best 3 diverse photos in a division of the PSA International Exhibition. Mr. Donnally received one in the Monochrome Print Division, one in the Color Print Division and two in Photojournalism. This PSAer has 5 stars in Monochrome Prints (PPD), 3 stars in Color Slides (CSD) and 3 stars in Photojournalism (PJD) and earned his Distinction of Proficiency (PPSA) from PSA in 2003.

Bailey Donnally has been a very active photographer in the Chicago area garnering a long list of awards all given by the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association (CACCA): Winner of *The Photographers Award* (now called the *Wanda Crystal Award*); *The Charles and Betty Stinson Award, Masters in CACCA*, and *Tops in CACCA*. *The Photographer's Award* is given for "artistic achievement and photographic excellence," and the *Stinson* award is for "outstanding contributions to photography in the Chicago area." In addition, Bailey was also awarded an honorary member of the Mid-States Imaging and Photographic



Sanctuary



*Short Stop in Garibaldi*

Association. He has exhibited photographs on all 7 continents.

Bailey joined PSA in 1969 and has actively volunteered and held many important PSA positions: Treasurer of PSA; member and chairman of the PSA Honors Committee; PSA district representative; chairman techniques division; program director, PPD, and has been a frequent speaker at PSA Conferences. For his impressive service record Bailey was awarded an Associate of the Photographic Society of America (APSA) in 1975 and a Fellow of PSA (FPSA) in 1982. And, added to that impressive list, he has been a recipient of the PSA Service Medal.

Dr. Donnally held the title Distinguished Service Professor of Physics: teaching and doing research at Lake Forest College until his retirement in 1995. He tells us, "I am exceedingly lucky to have, in addition to a great family, two passions, physics and photography, that have given me much happiness. Can you believe that I even got paid for pursuing one of them? That I have received recognition in both areas is especially gratifying. But my two passions are not as separated as many people think. Lake Forest College encourages interdisciplinary efforts, so although mostly I taught physics, I also taught photography in several forms, some listed as Art courses and some as Physics course. My main research was in atomic physics and nuclear physics, yielding results that were of wide interest, but I also did experimental work related to photography. Specifically, several students worked with me on research projects, sometimes over the summer, to apply some modern optical processing techniques to photography with the aim of producing unique



*Devotion*

aesthetic effects." For his teaching, he received the Distinguished Service Citation from the American Association of Physics Teachers and subsequently was elected president of that organization. For his research he was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Donnally received his B.S. in Engineering in 1951 from Auburn University; his M.S. in Physics in 1952 from Auburn University; and his Ph.D. in Physics in 1961 from the University of Minnesota.

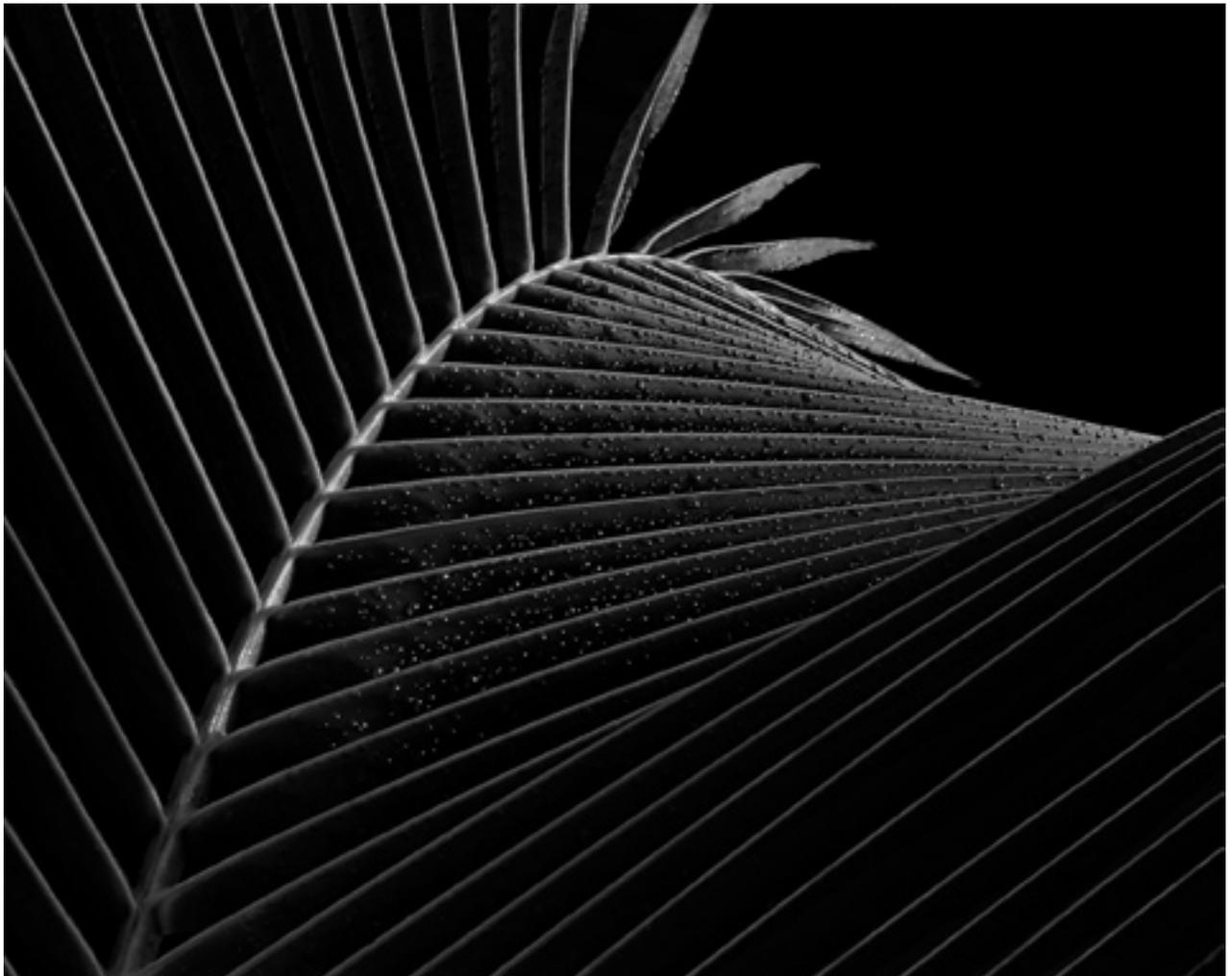
As he approached his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, Bailey's wife, Pat, challenged him to lose weight and get in shape. Bailey accepted the challenge provided that if weight and fitness goals were met, "they would climb Mt. Kilimanjaro." Of course, all goals were met and Bailey made that climb: the very first athletic act in his adult life. This little anecdote shows a desire to achieve goals, a zest for life, a joyful exuberance, an intellectual personality, and an artistic approach—this is **Bailey L. Donnally, FPSA, PPSA.**

*Photos © Bailey L. Donnally, FPSA, PPSA*

*Andean  
King*



*Nature's  
Arch*





On Halong Bay

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT



*I believe that if you look carefully, you can find things of beauty or things of interest almost anywhere. I seek these things wherever I go. The camera assists me in this search by demanding that I look closely at what is in front of my eyes, whether it is a scenic landscape or an interesting detail on a rusty car. To share my experience with others through my images, it is sometimes enough to judiciously choose a perspective, seek a good composition, consider the light and click the shutter. But when I discover a worthy photographic subject, only rarely is a straight photograph capable of expressing my perception of the event. I do not come to the event as a tabula rasa. Rather, I bring to the table a lifetime of experiences and study, on top of a lot of genetic baggage. When I address a photographic subject, I am looking with my eyes, but I am interpreting what I see in light of my full range of thoughts - making comparisons to other times and other subjects, thinking of the way my subject evolved, triggering memories of related things, considering how the subject and the event might have been different under other circumstances. Thus, to express my full reaction to the subject, a simple documentary photograph often will not serve well. Thus I frequently bring together images from several places and times, to create an image that better expresses my reaction, just as my eye and my mind gather experiences and knowledge from varied sources to form my perceptions and my reactions. Do these images reflect the "Truth"? Yes, to me they do. They represent my truth, my musings, my reactions, and my speculations on the subject. But there are many truths. Someone standing beside me, observing the same scene may experience a different truth based on a different range of experiences and associations.*

*Bailey L. Donnally, FPSA, PPSA*

*Thistle Regatta*



## TECHNIQUE

Because I find it useful in expressing my personal reaction to subjects, techniques for compositing images have always been interesting to me. Combining images from several pictures is not new. In 1850 there were excellent examples of images made from over 30 negatives. In earlier days I utilized procedures such as printing images side-by-side, using masks, exploiting high contrast images made with lithographic film, or multiple exposure. My interest was increased when I was able to persuade Jerry Uelsmann, one of the masters of combined

images, to come to Lake Forest College in the early 1970s to teach my students and me his astonishingly effective techniques. His teaching opened additional photographic worlds for me. Now I have switched completely to digital technology, which makes vastly simpler some of the older techniques, and introduces new ones. I presented a talk, "Are Two Better than One?" at the Portland PSA Conference in which I demonstrated some effective compositing procedures with Photoshop. In the 1970s I used the same title for a popular program exploring compositing using darkroom techniques.

*Polar King*

