True North Editions

Publications
Kate Jordahl
One Poem Series, Collaboration with Don Drake, Dreaming Mind
Elementary Geography, Crystal Day, Wild Goose, Forecast, Here & End
Handbound Offset Books with Silver Gelatin Print, 2014-2016

Kate Jordahl
The Conversation Series with Don Drake, Dreaming Mind
Walking with Kandinsky, Afternoons with Ruth & Song Within
Slipcased Handbound Books with Silver Gelatin Prints and Letterpress, 2006-2013
Geir Jordahl
Searching for True North
Published by Modernbook/Themes+Projects

Traveler Collaboration with Don Drake, Dreaming Mind
Slipcased Book with 36 Handprinted Silver Gelatin Prints and Letterpress, 2004
If you want to genuinely understand others, you must venture to the “last mile.” Showcasing cultural diversity and the aesthetics of disappearance, Cultures in Transition gives viewers the opportunity to broaden their thinking and be transported to a world beyond their own. While the lives captured are diverse, each brimming with their own unique vibrancy, they are all attempting to tell the same story: the Spirit, Heart, and Soul of us all.

Entering a village is stepping back in time. Narrow streets, sometimes paved, most of the time dirt paths make up the majority of the village. Early morning has its repetitive rhythms as the town wakes up. Few words are exchanged among neighbors, prayers are completed, and chores get underway. Villages are populated by those on opposite ends of the generational divide – grandparents and children. The net result often creates a situation where those desperately looking to preserve tradition are caring for those most-willing to embrace change. From a western perspective, it may look like time stands still in the village, and in some ways it does, but below the surface, there exists a struggle between old and new, tradition and modernity that ultimately must come into balance as villagers hold onto their Spirit while coping with the reality of a modern world.

For centuries, the Yi people have been surviving in the remote mountainous regions of China. In relative isolation, they have developed their own language, costumes, and customs. Traveling deep in Yi territories is a trip back in time. The parents are hard at work, cultivating the land for subsistence. The young split their time between morning school, helping with daily chores, and taking care of their infant siblings. The Yi customs and way of life are antiquated, but their instinct of survival and resistance to change is commanding and full of hope. The lure of comfort in form of new homes and modern amenities has the Yi fiercely resists as they want to protect their homeland and authenticity.

Nestled in the snowy mountaintops of Western Mongolia, the Kazakhs have mastered the ancient and noble art of hunting with eagles. For centuries, this knowledge has been transferred from father to son, but that’s all beginning to change. The young women are becoming Bürkitshi, the Kazakh word for eagle hunters. This shift is no accident. Eagle hunting has slowly transitioned from a means of survival to a sightseeing attraction. This influx of commercialism has altered their trading power and divided the community. No longer are they exchanging goods and furs, now they are earning currency through tourism. Teaching the art of eagle hunting to women makes the Kazakh even more interesting to tourists and prevents the sport from becoming diluted or dying out altogether.

Cultures In Transition: Spirit, Heart, Soul
Photographs by Oliver Klink
Essays by Anne Wilkes Tucker, Peter Finke and Geir Jordahl

Both Klink and I hope that family histories and some of their traditions will travel with the younger generations as they leave the rural for the urban. Maybe Klink’s images, given to the sitters, will be used later to spark memories, just as they have for his in-laws who left China decades ago.

Anne Wilkes Tucker
Curator Emerita, Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Klink’s photographs are more poetry than prose…. The images feel spontaneous even when the composition suggest staging or prompting; Klink’s style is a balance like that between a choreographer and stage director who allows improvisational moments to infuse themselves into a scripted event.

Geir Jordahl
Curator, Book Publisher, True North Editions

Klink’s book hints to the fragility of human culture and society. While it may superficially seem that life has not changed for many years or centuries, this is clearly not the case.

Peter Finke
Professor Social Anthropology, University of Zurich

© 2019 True North Editions
All rights reserved
Library of Congress Control Number: 2018908321
Geir and Kate Jordahl
TRUE NORTH EDITIONS
Geir and Kate Jordahl bring their love of books and passion for images to the creation of a variety of visual projects. They founded True North Editions in 2012 as a collaborative effort to give voice to unique work by artists working authentically. They have worked together as a team since 1980 as editors, curators and imagemakers. Their work is represented by Themes + Projects/Modernbook Gallery, San Francisco.


Book awards include a Gold Medal and Best of Show in the PubWest Book Design Awards, a Silver Medal in Prix de Paris and a Silver Medal in the Independent Publishers Book Awards for Searching for True North and a Silver Award-Photography and a Bronze Award-Art in the PubWest Book Design Awards for Native American Ceremonial Dancers. You can see more about True North Editions at http://www.truenortheditions.com.

Geir and Kate Jordahl both have Masters of Fine Arts Degrees in Photography from Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. They have lived in Hayward since 1983 when they founded PhotoCentral Program. Geir is Director at PhotoCentral. Kate is a Professor of Photography at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, California.

geir@jordahlphoto.com • kate@jordahlphoto.com