



Distinctive Image

featuring...

Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA
Germany

By Sue Marrugi



Snowy owl chick

The *PSA Journal* is honored to present **Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA**, as this issue's *Distinctive Image* artist. The *Distinctive Image* article is published only four times a year, spotlighting outstanding PSA members from around the world! Gunther Riehle is certainly no stranger to receiving awards and honors.

Gunther lives in Kirchheim unter Teck, Germany. He has been a continuous member of PSA since July 1, 1988, earning his GMPSA in 2013. He was presented with his APSA at this last Yellowstone Conference. Currently he is employed as a Technical Manager for Schweppes

International Ltd. for 15 countries in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe. He has worked there since 1991. He received a Master's Degree in Engineering for Food Technology/Food Sciences.

In addition to PSA, Gunther also belongs to the following photographic organizations: VOEAV (Austria), and ISF (France). He is the founder of these PSA-recognized international exhibitions: AC-FOTO German Mega Circuit, German Open Circuit, German Southern Circuit, and My Favourite Circuit.

He has numerous awards from the following PSA Divisions: Photojournalism Division, Nature Division, Projected Image Division, and Photo Travel Division, and has been listed several times in the *PSA Who's Who*, Top Overseas Exhibitors. Gunther enjoys all kinds of photographic subjects, but clearly favors nature wildlife.

Gunther has authored several articles for the PSA Website and *PSA Journal*. In addition, he has been published and co-authored in many German print magazines, newspapers, websites and catalogs. He has shared his knowledge with local youth, teaching photography, including photo processing and photo shoots. Other ventures include being a tour leader, official on-board photographer, speaker, and freelance sports photographer.



Fox pup smelling flower



Two Arctic fox pups

ARTIST'S STATEMENT



“Photography is my passion. Since I started:

I love to take images of things which I find beautiful.

I love to record natural beauty. (For this reason, I am not so keen on over the top image-processing. I just use Adobe Lightroom, not Photoshop or any other plug-ins.)

I want to have people understand and realize how beautiful our world and nature are, and that we need to protect them. NOW!

I love to take images which touch peoples' hearts positively.

I love to travel.

I love competition photography.

I am sure, as a photographer, you walk more consciously through life as you are permanently open-minded, scanning the surroundings for good photo opportunities and “THE” shot! This way you see more, you experience more, you keep many moments more deeply and intensely in your memory. In addition, when looking at your images after the travel is done, you permanently refresh your memories.

Competition photography is then a very nice complement. It is mega fun being successful in competitions. When I started, I photographed everything; now I have really mutated to a more or less hard core nature-wildlife photographer. I love to travel to more and more remote locations everywhere in our beautiful world to experience wildlife photography at its best.

The images in this article were taken on Wrangel Island, above the Arctic Circle, in the Russian Far-East region. It took four years of heavy work for the tour operator, Heritage Expeditions from New Zealand, to get all permits in hand and the trip off the ground. It was very well worth waiting as it was an interesting trip I will remember forever.”

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Jumping polar bear



Snowy owl chick in flight



Snowy owl chick

TECHNIQUE

Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA

"My favourite technique is one I learned from Art Wolfe. He was the keynote speaker and presented his Y2K project at the PSA Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2000. He was lecturing on photographing wildlife with a wide-angle lens. I first thought this was impossible, but then sat in his presentation with jaws fully open. ABSOLUTELY astonishing photography! Using this new technique for my images resulted in a placement in the 2013 Nature's Best competition. Most of the snowy owl chick images on Wrangel Island were taken using this method. I used a 10-20mm lens on small format sensor. Obviously you need cooperative wildlife for this.

"But 80% of the images I took on Wrangel Island used a long lens: Canon EOS 1DX, plus 200-400mm lens with a built-in 1.4 converter. I never use a tripod. I am too impatient for that, and in wildlife action photography you need to be mega quick and mega flexible. With powerful cameras like my Nikon D4 and the Canon EOS 1DX, which both allow me to use high ISO settings without producing noise in the image, no tripod is necessary. It is possible to use very short shutter speeds at all light conditions ensuring maximum sharpness. All of my images are processed with Adobe Lightroom 5."

Photos © Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA



Arctic fox pups dispute



Arctic fox pup yawning