

Distinctive Image

featuring...

Jan-Thomas Stake, GMPSA

Sweden

The *PSA Journal* continues its *Distinctive Image* series, this time featuring Photographic Society of America (PSA) artist **Jan-Thomas Stake, GMPSA**, from Sweden. While Jan-Thomas loves all forms of photography, his favorite subjects are people (portraits, nudes, children and rock stars).

He started competing in international exhibitions in 1993 with monochrome prints developed in the darkroom, but has evolved to

shoot digital exclusively. Confirming the diversity of his photography, Jan-Thomas presently has a Galaxy 6 in Large Mono Prints; 5 Stars in Large Color Prints; a Galaxy 9 in the Color Projected Imaging Division (CPID); 4 stars in Photo Travel; 4 stars in the Photojournalism Division; a Galaxy 2 in the Electronic Image Division and 3 stars in Small Color Prints. Mr. Stake received his Excellence Distinction (EPSA) in 2006 and his Grand Master Distinction (GMPSA) recently, in January 2012. He has earned over 3000 acceptances in PSA-recognized exhibitions.

Jan-Thomas is very well known internationally and has received many photographic honors and distinctions: A.ISF (*Actifs d'Image Sans Frontiere*) France; ER.ISF (*Exposant Renomme' of Image Sans Frontiere*), European Council; MFIAP, (*Master Federation Internationale de L'Art Photographique*), European Council; EFIAP/p, (*Excellence Federation Internationale de L'Art Photographique Platinum*), European Council; FWIEP. (*Fellow Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography*) USA; SE.HKCPAC, (*Salon Exhibitor Hong Kong Color Photo Art Club*), Hong Kong; Hon. E.CPA, (*Honorable Exhibitor Chinese Photographic Association*) Hong Kong; Hon MHFCBA, (*Honorable Miembro Foto Club Buenos Aires*) Argentina; Hon E.YMCAPS, (*Honorable Exhibitor YMCA Photographic Society*), Hong Kong; Hon E.PSSM, (*Honorable Exhibitor Photography Salon Society of Macau*), Macau; Hon E.E. GPC, (*Honorable Excellent Exhibitor of Grace Photographic Club*), Hong Kong; Hon



Pretty for the party



Too loud



Linda in profile

PESGSPC (*Honorable Pascal English School and Greek School Photographic Club*), Cyprus; EP.PSM (*Excellent Photographer of Photographic Society of Macau*) Macau; Hon E.UAPA, (*Honorary Exhibitor of United Artist Photographic Association*) Hong Kong and Hon A.PSG, (*Honorary Associateship of Pakistan Salon Group*), Pakistan.

Mr. Stake has had exhibitions both in Sweden and abroad and he was invited by the Chinese Embassy in Sweden to have an Exhibition and talk about his photos, *Images from Tibet*.

Jan-Thomas is the PSA International Relationship Director for Sweden since 2005 and previous to that he assisted the former Director, **Mats-Arne Mattsson, APSA**. He has referred 13 new members to the Society. In addition, he has given presentations in photo-clubs and schools in Sweden: teaching the darkroom and the old style of developing monoprints. He has been the chair of his local *photoclub*, *Team KriFo*.

Mr. Stake tells us, "I always liked to draw and work with images from the day I could hold a pen. When I later got my first camera at the age of 6 or 7, I really liked it and then when I went to my first rock concert at the age of 15 (in 1977 with the band *Status Quo*), I smuggled in my new instamatic camera and I was hooked on photography. So you can say that music inspired me from the beginning. In 1992 I



My teddy bear

joined the local photoclub and was encouraged by two really good photographers who were sending images to salons, Mats-Arne Mattsson and Georg Lindsten. Mats-Arne convinced me to submit images and I started exhibiting in 1993 and got an acceptance on my first try and was hooked...but I'm still an amateur."

Photos © Jan-Thomas Stake, GMPSA

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Technique

As for technique, Jan-Thomas tells us, "I don't use any special technique. I just *paint* the model with the studio light and do as little as possible in Photoshop®. In some cases when I have some *strange* ideas, I do a little bit more in Photoshop, but that's quite rare. I like to do it as I did in the *old days* when using film: I planned what to do before taking the image so that I didn't have to work so hard in the darkroom.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT



Nude Nina



First of all I found out that it's very difficult to write about myself. Why do I like photography so much and what are my main interests? I like it because it brings me joy: to meet people, to travel, to be at a rock concert enjoying the music and taking photos... Fantastic. My main interest besides photography is music: rock'n roll music. And having the privilege of going to a concert and also taking photos that's really unbelievable. I like to meet people, whether taking portraits in the studio or traveling to a country far away and capture life and people in that place. The most important thing for me is to make contact with the person I photograph.

If it's in the studio with artificial lights then I want to *paint* the model with the light or if shooting outside, for example in Tibet, with a shy person who doesn't understand my language at all but understands my body language, I want to make that contact and hopefully get some nice portraits. I always want to learn more and become a better photographer. I am in the early stages of the digital world and I have a lot to learn...and that's very inspiring. Another important thing for me has been my work with the HBL camera. At that time you had to *think* images before you took them and that's what I try to do now in the digital world, as nowadays I only make digital images. Another really nice thing is the response from people about my images. When you get mail from people you don't know telling you that they have seen and liked your images that's really something, and it inspires me to want to make more and better images. Photography is REALLY GREAT!



I wish



Newborn



Judy