

Underwater World by Michel Roggo

Experience the beauty and uniqueness of water

By Syed Muhd Hafiz

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The Arts House (open 10am - 8pm)

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Encountering photography at an age which is considered to be relatively late – thirty years old – Michel Roggo has come a long way in documenting the underwater world. Michel has an affinity towards the element of water and, of course, the species that inhabit this environment. His passion has taken him to the rainforests of the Amazon, the rivers in the Rocky Mountains and the underground caves of Croatia, just to name a few rather inhospitable locations. His pursuits have won him many accolades and his photography exhibitions have enthralled many across Europe.

Having said “water is life”, Michel’s connection with the underwater world goes beyond the visual documentation of a photographer. His upcoming show portrays images that attempt to capture the ebb and flow of the environment he works in. His fluid depiction of the underwater world is even more challenging considering the fact that the pictures were taken from the shore using self-developed systems with self-capturing methods. Looking at some of the images of the photographer at work, it was like looking at a half-human, half-robot figure with his camera light set-up resembling tentacles offering superior vision underwater.

While technology is able to solve the harsh conditions for a photographer of the underwater world, it takes a committed photographer to scout for the unlikeliest of locations and produce photos that readers would never thought be possible, and to churn out works of art. Michel’s favourite spots include untouched springs, creeks, rivers and lakes, mostly located within the Scandinavian countries and the Balkans.

Winner of the EUROPEAN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2009, Michel has published over 10,000 pictures since he turned professional in 1987. His commitment in defining underwater photography takes on an interdisciplinary approach as well at The Arts House, with musical-visual installations as previously shown at the CHÂTEAU DE GRUYÈRES in January 2009. Having worked as a

Gorge of the Verzasca River, Swiss Alps © Michel Roggo

junior curator at the Fribourg Museum of Natural History during the mid-eighties, Michel's concern towards the audience's experience extends to his photography exhibitions as well.

Ultimately, UNDERWATER WORLD – besides offering visitors the wonders and splendours of an environment that has long fascinated man – also brings to the fore the underlying concern of conservation. Unlike some vociferous and aggressive environmentalist lobbies, Michel's underwater photography offers the subtle yet poignant message that we have much to lose should we continue our laissez faire attitudes towards underwater life conservation. On display, exhibition visitors will be able to appreciate images of fishes and plants in the Amazon, salmon in the North American Pacific Ocean as well as rare salmon from the Atlantic Ocean in the rivers of Québec. Happening during the Singapore International Week 2010, this exhibition encompasses a wide spectrum of issues, ranging from photography aesthetics to environmental issues, offering multiple entry points for visitors.



Michel Roggo, Amazon © Michel Roggo



Te Waikoropupu Springs, New Zealand © Michel Roggo



Pacific Salmon, Adams River, British Columbia, Canada © Michel Roggo