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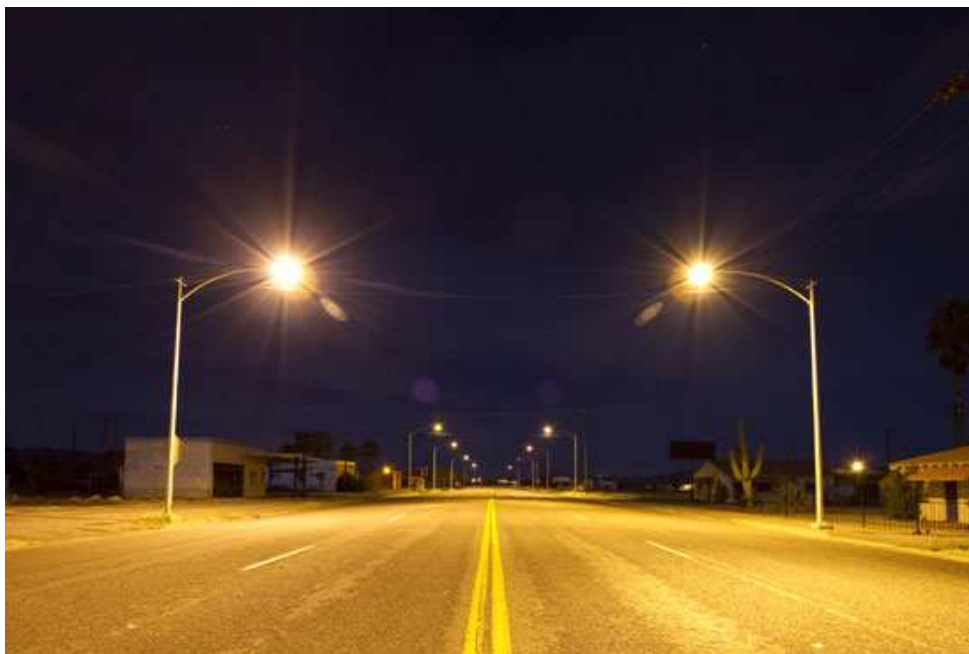
## Evolution of Self

The Flagstaff Photography Center presents the work of four emerging artists

By Abigail Terry

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From "Bowie Nights" by Sylvan Magnus.

Surreal images adorn the walls of the Flagstaff Photography Center offering visitors a glimpse into that which awes and inspires. Photographs personifying the bleak sleepiness of forgotten desert towns provide a contrast to bizarre representations of images from an artist's dream. These otherworldly images jump into 3-D through the lenses of the artist's homemade stereoscopes.

The Flag Photo Center is featuring a remarkable collection of local talent this month with the third annual Emerging Artists' Award Exhibition. Amateur photographers from the community are invited to submit their portfolios for professional review, and the selected winners get prints made to show at the FPC exhibit. The winning photographers this year range in experience from formally trained individuals with art degrees to a 12-year-old Flagstaff student.

The juror of this year's Emerging Artist Awards, Marita Holdaway, was the founder, owner and operator of Seattle's fine art photography exhibition space Benham Gallery, which existed from



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1987 to 2009. The gallery served as Seattle's only photography center for years, and Holdaway is considered a groundbreaker for her dedication to the community of photographers in Seattle. Jason Hasenbank, the managing director of FPC, says Holdaway has been his mentor for years and having her jury this year's show was truly a treat for all involved.

Holdaway, who reviews more than a thousand portfolios annually and hosts workshops for emerging and mid-career fine art photographers all over the world, carefully chose four local artists for this year's awards. She says her "hope is that photographers will learn to follow their hearts and not the almighty dollar."

The Emerging Artist Awards were created as a proactive gift back to Flagstaff's community of photographers. During the portfolio review weekend, Holdaway also hosted a workshop for all the contenders. The workshop, "Vision to Vocation: The Business of Being an Artist," was designed to inspire and instruct emerging artists to harness their talent into a profession.

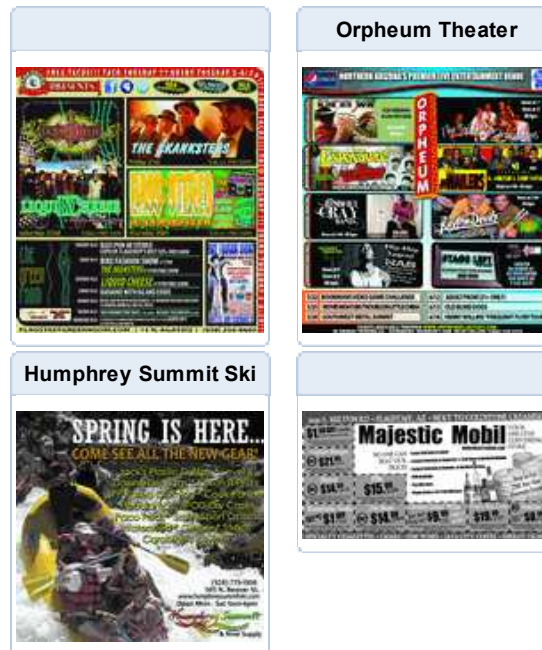
Timothy C. Flood was awarded first place in this year's contest and has eight of his dreamy images on display. "This award is an enormous encouragement, which I intend to use to motivate myself again," says Flood.

His collection of photos, "On the Evolution of Spirit, Self and Dimension," is an interactive visual treat. Flood's images are displayed in 2-D as well as 3-D through his handmade stereoscopes. The polished cherry wood boxes have binoculars on one end and a clear viewer on the other end. The devices are reminiscent of the Disney ViewMasters that some might remember from childhood.

Viewing artwork through the stereoscopes is a unique experience. The relationship between the viewer and the images is much more personal when held in the hand. "The viewer is transported, they are suddenly alone with the work and can spend as much time as they like to with it," says Flood.

Images straight from Flood's dreams spring to life when looking through the stereoscopes.

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Rockets to the moon, fish-powered subways floating through the sky and a birdman in a suit having tea with Buddha are just a few of the arresting images contained within the little cherry wood boxes.

"This body of images is a loose narrative about the journey out of the mundane and towards that which is greater than ourselves," says Flood. The imagination reels while taking in these images, and one must engage in a moment of wonder and reflection to truly digest the narratives.

This year's youngest winner, Kirsten Bublitz, is only 12 years old and has been pursuing photography for two years. Bublitz's featured print "Sleeping Giant" showcases the eye of a professionally trained photographer, obeying the rule of thirds and toying with the idea of dimension and a vanishing point. Although Bublitz insists that photography is just a hobby for her, the talent that her photographs display merits the recognition.

Jeffrey Goggin's collection "Superior After Dark," which originally consisted of more than 2,000 images, captures a sleepy town that seems untouched by time. Goggin stumbled upon Superior, Ariz., on accident 13 years ago. "It seemed as if I had suddenly materialized in another era, or perhaps more accurately, another state of mind," says Goggin, explaining his serendipitous pit stop. Goggin has made 43 subsequent trips to Superior to capture the niche charm of the sleepy town.

All of his images are black and white and taken at night. The vintage presentation of these images personifies the feeling Goggin had when he first stumbled upon Superior. The images allow the imagination to wander back to a moment in time when the town was as empty as the images displayed portray.

Also photographing in the otherworldly setting of night, Sylvan Magnus' "Bowie Nights" features moonlit images of Bowie, Arizona. These photographs of a forgotten border town are reminiscent of the backdrop for a zombie-thriller movie. Magnus strives to portray a town where "the days are still and the nights are silent." Magnus says the biggest challenge was "waiting for the best nighttime moonlight." The images prove it was worth the wait as every photo has a distinctive color and tone provided by the moon.

Holdaway selected Goggin's and Magnus' images because of the manner in which they complement each other. These two artists capture an Arizona town in a quiet manner with a contemplative tone. Both bodies of work capture an empty moment when the onlooker is left wondering, "Where is everyone?"

Flood says he hopes "the visitors to the exhibit enjoy the work and that it inspires them to discover and journey in their own lives." The personal journey all of these artists took from inception to materialization is an inspiration.

Jason Hasenbank says the show is one of his favorite exhibitions. "It is aligned with our mission of enriching the community in the recognition of established and emerging photographers by promoting the remarkable achievements of our region's many talented fine-art photographers," he says.

Each of the four artists featured in the exhibit deserves the recognition as an emerging artist in their field. Each set of prints tells a story of discovery and exploration—truly the life of an artist.

This exhibition will be on display at the Flagstaff Photography Center, 107 N. San Francisco, Ste. 3, through June 18 with a reception on June 4 at 6 p.m. for the Art Walk. For more information, call 774-2544 or visit [www.flagstaffphotographycenter.com](http://www.flagstaffphotographycenter.com).

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**Additional photos for this story:**



"Luna Firma" by Timothy Flood.



"My Spiritual Advisor" by Timothy Flood.



"This Once Seemed Beautiful" by Timothy Flood.



"I Think it's Going to be a Long Long Time" by Timothy Flood.

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From "Superior After Dark" by Jeffrey Goggin.

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"Sleeping Giant" by Kirsten Bublitz.

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"The Ladder to my Salvation" by Timothy Flood.

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"I Should Have Taken the Fish Instead" by Timothy Flood.

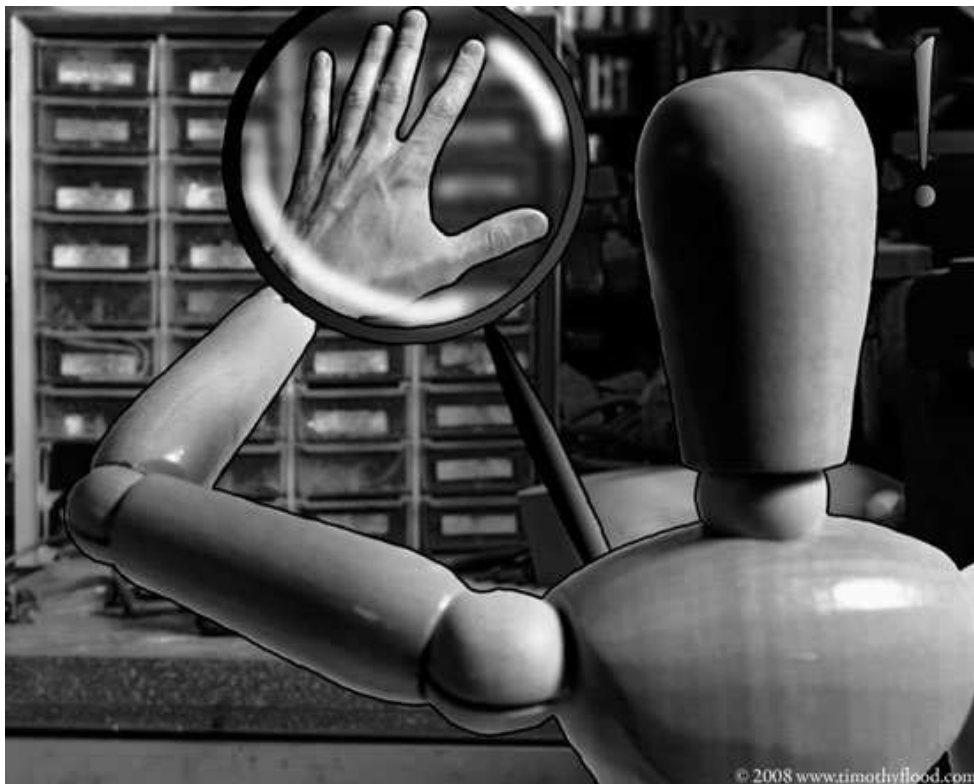


The handmade stereoscopes by Timothy Flood.





"It's Only a Costume" by Timothy Flood.



"Upon Closer Examination" by Timothy Flood.

