



Distinctive Image

featuring...

Jozef Aerts, FPSA, EPSA

Hasselt, Belgium



Ignorance, Marocco

Once again the *Journal* continues its *Distinctive Image* series, featuring a Photographic Society of America (PSA) artist who enjoys and has mastered photography: the *Journal* highlights the photo travel images of **Jozef Aerts, FPSA, EPSA**, from Hasselt, Belgium. Jos joined PSA in 1975 and started participating in International Exhibitions in 1978. To date, he has over 9000 acceptances in provincial, national and international exhibitions throughout the world; with 800 of his works awarded trophies, medals or honorable mentions. Jozef has finished in the top ten in the world in PSA's *Who's Who* in the Color Slide Division (CSD)—(now Color Projected Image Division); the Nature Division (ND); Photojournalism Division (PJD); and PhotoTravel Division (PTD). In PTD he has finished in first place in 1983 and again in 1987. Among his many accomplishments, this *Distinctive Image Artist* holds a Photo Traveller

X in PTD; a Galaxy 7 in CPID; a Galaxy 3 in ND; a Photojournalism IV in PJD; 3 stars in color prints; and 3 stars in monochrome prints. In 1992 he received the first Photo Traveler award. PTD has needed to constantly add ever-more challenging requirements and Photo Traveller categories because of this photographer's very high number of acceptances worldwide. Early in the history of PSA Distinctions, Jozef applied for and received the EPSA distinction (1998). Held in high esteem by his colleagues, Jos frequently has judged in national and international exhibitions in France, Holland, Great Britain, and the United States: Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1993, and Wilmington, Delaware in 2004. Mr. Aerts is also greatly sought after as a lecturer on photo travel and photojournalism.

This *Distinctive Image Artist* has been recognized by the *Federation Internationale de L'art Photographique* (FIAP); in 1981 he was

elected an associate (AFIAP); 1984 he qualified for the honor of EFIAP, for excellence in photography; 1996 he received the EFIAP bronze award; 1997 the EFIAP Silver award; 2001 the EFIAP Gold award; and in 2003, the EFIAP Platinum award.

Mr. Aerts has been active as a PSA Region Director for Europe since 2006. Previous to that he was, and still is, the International Representative for Belgium. This PSAer was elected APSA in 1987 and a Fellow (FPSA) in 1992.

Jozef was attracted to photography at a very young age and tells us, "I was born in 1949 and eventually became a bank-clerk. In 1973, after finishing my studies and military service I bought my first miniature camera, a Minolta SRT 101. My next step in photography was to affiliate with a camera club, where after one year of ardent and persevering work I earned my first acceptance and the following years I earned two and five acceptances respectively, including an honorable mention. I was very devoted to my club and joined excursions in all seasons; listened to guest-lecturers and asked questions; visited other clubs and interesting exhibitions; looked for ideas and worked them out. All subjects were broached and worked out in a club-connection. Techniques, composition and exposure were learned, and originality and substance followed. After all you still have to see and to photograph the subject yourself.

"From the moment I joined the *Photo Club Beringen*, I was full of intensity, participating in national and international contests. It was a luxury for me that I could benefit from the experience, knowledge and the support of a few "seniors." At *Photo Club Beringen*, I learned how to discover better photography. For me it is inseparably connected to the six primary rules: light, line, color, foreground, background and subject. If all these factors are right, you'll naturally have a good, photographic work."

Mr. Aerts, who has unselfishly devoted himself to service in his own club was a member of the board in the union of the *Limburg Photo-circles*; served on the committee of the *Belgian Federation of Photo-circles* and in the *Flemish Federation of Photo-circles*. He is also an Associate member of the *India International Photographic Council*.

He has won different awards as an Honorable Member of clubs: the *Wilmington Camera Club*, Delaware, *Tulsa Magic Empire USA*, *Candid Munsterbilzen Belgium*, and others to numerous to mention here.

In May 2008, this *Distinctive Image Artist* was awarded the Master FIAP for a portfolio of the daily life of nuns in the Abbey of Herkenrode. Jozef was honored with a *Photo-Exposition of 35 Years of the Photography of Jozef Aerts* presented at the Abby. Over 1810 visitors attended the Exposition.



An alms please



White sandbag



Two pink children

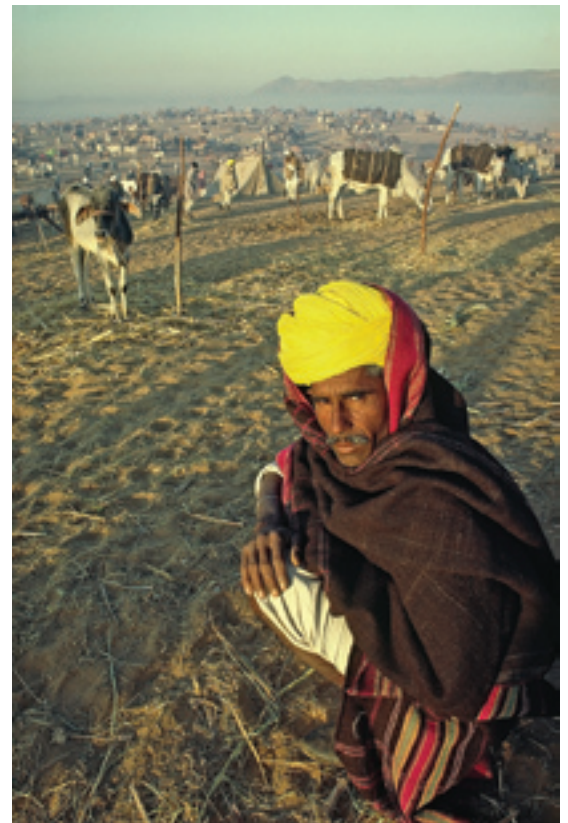
ARTIST'S STATEMENT



In the beginning, I concentrated on competitive imagery but eventually I evolved to concentrate on travel photography: children, older people and landscapes catch my eye. I strive for creativity and the ability to show the most beautiful things on our wonderful planet, the earth.

There was a time when I hardly dared to approach people, but photography has made me more outgoing: I have become interested in other cultures and

other circumstances of life. It makes me happy to have visited countries like Tunisia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, India, Myanmar, Japan, different states in North America, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Morocco and European countries; all thanks to photography. I hope I can make more discoveries in this direction and fulfill my life further with travel photography. And also very important: I'm glad to be able to make friends all over the world; with so many wonderful people in four of the five visited continents.



The cattle guard



Enjoy on back



Dark brown monks

Photos © Jozef Aerts



Children with mother

TECHNIQUE

During most of Jozef's travels a Minolta 700si is used with two zoom lenses: a 28-70 mm and 80-200 mm. His favorite film is Fuji Sensia 100 slide film. Recently, he has added the Koninca-Minolta Digital 7 camera, which has a 17-35 mm zoom lens. For landscape photography, Jos usually adds a polarizing filter.

Before departing on a trip, Mr. Aerts reads a good guidebook; studies the population and the local lifestyle and becomes comfortable enough to easily approach people with the result that he can shoot with ease. He

Heavy efforts



learns about interesting markets and festivals and tries to shoot in the early morning or late afternoon.

Jozef has a philosophy about travelling: "Travel, first for rest after a stressful period, then for an active sporting holiday and for the photo-amateurs: the opportunity to make recordings of culture, landscape and man in his surroundings; in his daily doings.

"Travel photography is a not-too-easy form of photography because one has the opportunity to photograph a particular image only once. In a flash, each situation must be assessed. For every difficulty an appropriate solution must be found immediately.

"Set these problems in an unknown environment and it is abundantly clear that it is necessary, to master one's photographic material and the photographic rules. So making a good preparation of one's journey is essential."

This travel photographer offers the following advice:

Portraits: people with dark skin are best photographed in the shade, if not their skin will be too dark.

Markets: choose a dark background (not in the sun) while trying to take a "backlit" photo. This is usually a guarantee for a good shot.

The morning rising light: photography is writing with light. If you get up early in the morning the sunrise gives you the most special impact in light.

Thunderstorms: you can find the ideal photographic light just before and after a storm but you must be very quick. The effect is gone in a few minutes.