

THK GALLERY

ANGELA FISHER AND CAROL BECKWITH | BIO AND CV

Photographers, USA, Australia

American-born Carol Beckwith and Australian Angela Fisher met over 40 years ago, beginning a photographic partnership that has seen them journey over 300 000 miles on the African continent – through 48 countries and recording 150 African cultures. *African Twilight* will be the first solo show presented by the pair on the African continent and will include images from their travels to Tanzania, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, DR Congo, and Cameroon – documenting rituals and ceremonies from some of the most remote corners of our continent.

Beckwith and Fisher have twice been honoured with the Annisfield-Wolf Book Award in race relations for “outstanding contributions to the understanding of cultural diversity and prejudice”, and have won the Royal Geographical Society of London’s Cherry Kearton Medal for their “contribution to the photographic recording of African ethnography and ritual”. Their defining body of work, the double volume book *African Ceremonies* (1999), and the accompanying exhibition *Passages* (Brooklyn Museum of Art, 2000), won the United Nations Award for Excellence for its “vision and understanding of the role of cultural traditions in the pursuit of world peace.” The exhibition travelled internationally to various institutions – including the National Geographic Museum in Washington DC and the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York.

Ruth E. Carter, the celebrated costume designer for the ground-breaking film *Black Panther* (2017), has referenced Beckwith and Fisher’s photographs as one source of inspiration for her innovative designs, using Beckwith and Fisher’s comprehensive and varied collection of images as a foundation upon which to innovate. Other notable publications produced by the duo include *Africa Adorned* (1984), *Faces of Africa* (2004), and *Painted Bodies: African Body Painting, Tattoos and Scarification* (2012).

Exhibitions

2019

Solo Exhibition at Donna Karan’s Urban Zen Foundation, New York
I Feel: A Group Photography Show, Nonfinito Gallery, New York

2018

African Twilight: Vanishing Rituals & Ceremonies, THK Gallery, Cape Town
African Twilight: Vanishing Rituals & Ceremonies, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, California

2009

Passages, The Museum of Natural Science, Turin, Italy

2008

Passages, The Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA

2004

Passages, National Geographic Museum, Washington, DC

2003

Passages, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

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Passages, Naples Museum of Art, Naples, FT

2002

Passages, Borges Centro Cultural, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Passages, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS

2000

Passages, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY

Publications

2012

Painted Bodies: African Body Painting, Tattoos and Scarification (published by Rizzoli)

2012

Dinka: Legendary Cattle Keepers of Sudan (published by Rizzoli)

2009

Lamu (published by Rizzoli)

2004

Faces of Africa (published by National Geographic)

2002

Maasai, Himba, Hamar (published by Tailer Experimental)

Karo (published by Tailer Experimental)

Surma (published by Tailer Experimental)

African Ceremonies (abridged) (published by Harry N. Abrams)

2000

Passages (published by Harry N. Abrams)

1999

African Ceremonies, Vol. 1 (of 2) (published by Harry N. Abrams)

African Ceremonies, Vol. 2 (of 2) (published by Harry N. Abrams)

1990

African Ark (published by Harry N. Abrams)

1984

Africa Adorned (published by Harry N. Abrams, USA and Collins, UK)

1983

Nomads of Niger (published by Abrams / Abradale)

1980

Maasai (published by Abrams / Abradale)

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Awards

1981

Anisfield-Wolf Book award, Maasai - "For outstanding Contribution to the Understanding of Cultural Diversity and Prejudice."

1990

Golden Hand of Lucy Award, from Institute of Human Origins, U.S.A. - "For Cultural Studies of Mankind."

1991

Anisfield-Wolf Book award, African Ark - "For outstanding Contribution to the Understanding of Cultural Diversity and Prejudice."

1999

United Nations Award for Excellence, from U.N. Society of writers and artists, *African Ceremonies* "For vision and understanding of the role of cultural traditions in the pursuit of peace in the world."

2000

14th Annual New York Book Show U.S.A., African Ceremonies - 1st place in *Photographic Book Design* and *Photography Book* Categories

Biarritz Photography Festival Award, France , *African Ceremonies- Best Photography Book*

Cherry Kearton Medal @ Award, from the Royal Geographical Society of London, U.K. "For contributions to the photographic recording of African ethnography and ritual."

2009

ForeWord Photographic Book of the Year, Lamu: Kenya's Enchanted Island - The 2009 Book of the Year Award for *LAMU: Kenya's Enchanted Island* was announced at Book Expo America, New York City. ForeWord reviews awarded *LAMU* First Prize (Gold) in the Category of *Photographic Book 2009*

2010

Image of the Year Award, given by the Sociedad Geográfica Española - "The Image Award recognized Carol & Angela for excellence in the field of photography."

WINGS WorldQuest Lifetime Achievement Award, "WINGS WorldQuest is an international organization dedicated to supporting and recognizing visionary women in discovery, knowledge, and conservation. The Lifetime Achievement award honours women who are pioneers in the field of exploration and discovery."

Hewlett Packard Award: Best Photographic Book of Year, Dinka - "Out of 450 projects from 170 countries *DINKA* was voted unanimously to receive first prize for the highest quality photographic book. *DINKA* is Carol and Angela's limited edition book printed by R.E. Producciones in Santiago, Chile."

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Awards (continued)

2010

Lowell Thomas Award, "One of the most prestigious awards given by the Explorers Club, NYC, the Lowell Thomas Award honours men and women who have distinguished themselves in the field of exploration." Past awardees include Edmund Hillary, Isaac Asimov, David Doubilet, and Buzz Aldrin.

2012

African Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award, "A Lifetime Achievement Award given by African Heritage, Kenya, for exceptional documentation of disappearing African indigenous cultures and for a prolific photographic partnership spanning three and a half decades."

2019

Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society, "Recognition of their lifetimes work and outstanding support of the Society and geography."

ForeWord Photographic Book of the Year, African Twilight - The 2019 Gold Award in the Category of Photographic Book