

Graham Wilder's 'Julian Images' Reaching an Ever-Widening Audience

It has been just 4 years since Graham Wilder settled in Julian and began to seriously pursue a life-long passion for nature photography. Influenced by a background in Eastern thought and yoga meditation, Graham's approach to photography has been described as almost metaphysical in nature. His concept of reality, which transcends the purely physical and embraces the finer essence of all things, is reflected in his photographic images. "My photography is inspired as much by things felt as things seen, and I believe the images I capture are capable of conveying something of both."

In 2007 Graham opened his Julian Images Gallery in a tucked-away corner at A Rose Path, where he displays samples of his fine art prints of the Julian area for friends and visitors. He later helped to found The Julian Art Gallery, also at A Rose Path, which features primarily local artists as well as more of his own work. That same year, Graham's photography received recognition at the First Annual Anza-Borrego Desert Photo

Contest and at the San Diego County Fair's International Exhibition of Photography.

In January of 2008, Graham was commissioned by world-renowned artist and architectural designer, James Hubbell, to shoot the photographs for his forthcoming book which, in the artist's words, will be "...a visual, poetic look at the relationship of the buildings, art, and nature of Ilan-Lael." Ilan-Lael, in Santa Ysabel, CA, has been Hubbell's home of 50 years and is the anchor property of the Ilan-Lael Foundation. Hubbell, whose wish it is that the photos will be "imminently beautiful" and give the reader a sense of how time, seasons, and weather blend together, has said of Wilder's work, "He has a special talent for capturing in his photographs the subtle nuances of light, atmosphere, and the moods of nature." Now, after 20 months and nearly 100 photo shoots at the property, Graham is "nearly satisfied" with his "attempt to capture something of the soul of this incredible place." It is hoped that the Hubbell book will be published sometime in 2010.



Most recently, Graham was honored by being selected as one of the photographers for the "Best of Nature Photography Show" (a juried, international photography competition) at The Ordover Gallery located in the San Diego Natural History Museum. His photograph, selected from a field of over 2,300 images, is one he titled "Evening Glow and Storm," which features a well-known Julian landmark: the livestock chute just west of town, near Pine Hills Road. Of this, Graham said, "I was especially pleased that that image was selected because it is so recognizable as being 'Julian,' and is the only one in the show from here." The Best of Nature

Exhibition opened on June 27th and will end on September 13th.

Of his work, Graham says: "If my images are able to earn a place in your home or in your memory, or perhaps inspire you to take beautiful photographs of your own, then I consider my efforts a success."

Anyone interested in seeing Graham Wilder's photography can visit the Julian Images Gallery and The Julian Art Gallery at A Rose Path, 2229 Main Street, Julian (next door to the Julian Pie Company); Orchard Hill Country Inn (Main Lodge), 2502 Washington Street, Julian; or go to Graham's website, www.julianimages.com.