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Andy Richter Serpent in the Wilderness

Texts by Andy Richter
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A photographic exploration of yoga around the globe

Serpent in the Wilderness is a visual exploration of yoga that emerged from photographer Andy Richter's personal practice and experience. After studying yoga for years, he decided to use his medium – photography – to search for the essence of the practice. For more than half a decade, he traveled to places that are historically relevant to yoga's past, as well as to places that embody its living present, documenting a variety of yoga traditions with many of the world's great saints and yogis.

The book reveals hidden layers and rarely seen dimensions of a profoundly spiritual path and way of life, from ashrams and caves throughout India to living rooms across America.

*»Like the rays of the moon
the light of yoga is expanding.
All religions, beliefs and sects
are receiving shelter
under the kalpataru of yoga.
Towards the evolution of consciousness
yoga has done unforgettable work.
Yoga will become tomorrow's culture
and will show
a new way of life for mankind.«*
– Sri Swami Satyananda Saraswati

»In creating these photographs, many great saints and masters humbly welcomed me, sharing their wisdom over the years. I was invited to enter worlds I did not know existed and awakened to something true. This is my offering to yoga, for which I am eternally grateful.«
– Andy Richter

Andy Richter is a photographer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota (USA). Andy's work has been exhibited internationally and he is represented by Verbatim and Novus Select/Aurora Photos. He has received numerous awards and been recognized by American Photography, Photolucida, the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, and the International Photography Awards. He is a recipient of the Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant for 2017. *Serpent in the Wilderness* is his first book.

Exhibitions

MPLS Photo Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
01.03. – 06.04.2018

Camerawork Gallery, Portland, Oregon
31.03. – 27.04.2018

Vermont Center for Photography,
Brattleboro, Vermont, 01.06. – 01.07.2018

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Press Images



1_ A young devotee blesses pilgrims along the Govardhan parikrama, where Krishna is believed to have spent much of his youth. © Andy Richter



2_ Students at Miri Piri Academy in Amritsar, India, practice Kundalini yoga in the reflection of Yogi Bhajan. © Andy Richter



3_ Meditation on the Yamuna River at Keshi Ghat in Vrindavan. © Andy Richter



4_ Following two and a half days of White Tantric Yoga, yogis in New Mexico take a blind walk through the arid landscape



5_ Radha and Krishna on the television at Mauni Baba Ashram near Neelkanth, India. © Andy Richter



6_ A sadhu practices plavini pranayama while floating on the Shipra River during the Kumbh Mela in Ujjain, India. © Andy Richter



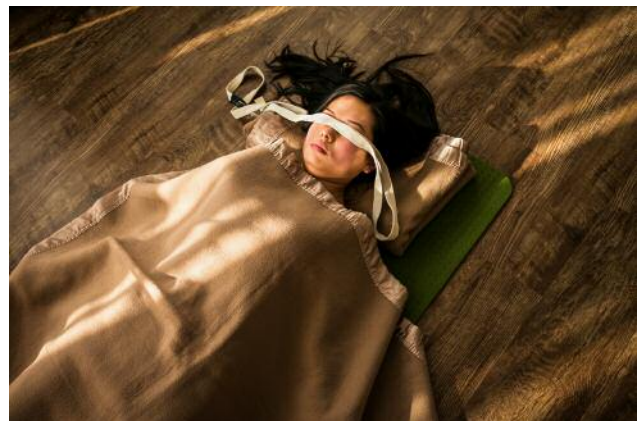
7_ Thousands of yogis practice asana during a early morning class at Red Rocks Amphitheater near Morrison, Colorado. Approximately 3,000 attended the sold out event, "Yoga on the Rocks." © Andy Richter



8_ Morning invocation during a retreat at the Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) hermitage in Encinitas, California. © Andy Richter



9_ Krishna devotees prostrate during their circumambulation of Govardhan Hill, near Govardhan, India. Moving one stone her body's length with each prostration (of 108 stones), the devotee in the foreground's parikrama, or walk around the sacred hill, will require 12 years to complete. Her bhakti, or devotion to Krishna, keeps her moving forward. © Andy Richter



10_ A yogini lies in savasana or "corpse pose," at Yogi Yoga in Beijing. The Chinese people have engaged in mind-body practices for centuries, yet the state, suspicious of activity that could undermine the collective order, has been slow to embrace yoga as a method of personal realization. © Andy Richter