

unwind

THE FLORIDA KEYS

LOCAL
ESSENTIALS

SOLAR SAVINGS *page 17*

ECO-FRIENDLY
Interior Design

CO-EXISTING
WITH NATURE

LIQUID = LIFE

KEYNOTER
PUBLISHING COMPANY
SPRING 2014



Renowned fine art Photographer Alan S. Maltz has been a Keys resident for over 36 years. He has captured Keys wildlife and settings within the county and across the globe.

Maltz is a self-taught artist who has displayed his work at his Duval Street Gallery for the past 15 years. He's been designated the "Official Fine Art Photographer for the State of Florida" by VISIT FLORIDA and "The Official Wildlife Photographer of Florida" by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. His art is represented in private, public and corporate collections throughout the world, including the Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta, Georgia, The Ritz-Carlton in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canson in Caen, France. Sixty of his fine art images are on permanent exhibition at the Southwest Florida

International Airport in Fort Myers, FL.

He has published 5 acclaimed coffee-table books, which have earned him numerous honors and recognition. Both



FREE SPIRIT

Maltz's best selling image taken at Anne's Beach in Islamorada.

TROPICAL DELIVERY

Maltz captured both these mailboxes and the local flavor of Key West.

Key West Color (1995) and Miami City of Dreams (1997) were named "Best Coffee Table Book of the Year" by the National Association of Independent Publishers. And Florida... Beyond the Blue Horizon (2006) was selected as the "Official Welcome Gift for Super Bowl XLI" and received numerous awards, including "Best Florida Book for Adults" and "Best Interior Design" by the Florida Publishers Association. Journey Through Paradise... Naples, Marco Island & The Everglades (2014) is his latest book venture. We caught up with Alan (**AM**) at his Gallery.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

AM: At my Long Island University graduation ceremony, I received a blast of inspiration, which I have gotten from time to time, to pick up a camera, even though I'd never even touched one before. I had no artistic knowledge but felt compelled to buy a camera and learn everything about it. I left for a European vacation the very next day with a group of friends, and proceeded to drive all around Europe looking for photo opportunities. After editing this work upon my return, I realized I had found my calling in life.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY STYLE?

AM: I am completely self-taught, never been trained, not technical in any way. Not even sure I know what each setting on my camera represents. Some have called me an 'anti-nerd' since I've resisted digital photography for so long. Shooting with film brings an image to its maximum. To some degree, I'm a 'drive, stop and shoot' type of



photographer. I see a scene that captivates me and I shoot it. Many of my most successful images were captured that way.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO MAKE FLORIDA AND THE KEYS YOUR HOME?

AM: I was a hippie at heart, living in Woodstock, N.Y. doing some freelance photography while trying to find a

photographic direction. I had a friend who lived in Coconut Grove who invited me to visit, and while on this trip, we made what seemed like a day-long trip to the Keys. Once again, I received that same type of inspiration I had gotten at graduation. Three months later I had brought my son down to Sugarloaf Key, where I purchased the home of former President Richard Nixon's helicopter pilot, Harry Asberry, the same house I have lived in ever since.

YOUR WORK TAKES YOU TO A LOT OF EXOTIC SETTINGS. ANY GOOD STORIES?

AM: My primary focus over the past 35+ years has been Florida. I've gotten assignments that have put me front and center with a variety of Florida's wildlife. I once was sent to shoot photos of bear cubs in their den in Ocala National Forest. That was an experience I will never forget!

WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR MORE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES?

AM: I was on an assignment with Tinsley Advertising, on location in Islamorada for a TDC shoot at Anne's Beach. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a setting that I felt compelled to photograph at that instant. It wasn't part of the planned shoot, but I captured it and that piece has turned out to be one of my best selling images.