

Gallery 27: Joyce Tenneson: A Life in Photography

Completing the Circle

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

A TRUE GODDESS OF OUR TIME, Joyce Tenneson and her life's work are celebrated in the exhibition *Joyce Tenneson: A Life in Photography* on display at Brooks Institute's Gallery 27 March 9th through March 27th. Viewers are invited to a special sneak peak of the exhibit on March 5th from 5 to 8pm as part of the 1st Thursday art walk.

"When I hit 60 I felt it was time to collect my favorite images and put them together in a book. This would free me up to focus on new projects," said Tenneson, who will appear at a special artist's reception and book signing on March 13th from 8 to 10pm.

The traveling exhibit goes hand in hand with Tenneson's book *Joyce Tenneson: A Life in Photography*, which spans four decades of her work.

Tenneson discovered her passion for photography as an 18 year old while working as a model for Polaroid. Given a camera and access to unlimited film, Tenneson began what has become a lifelong passion for photography and portraiture. "I just started to photograph myself because I was available," she said. "I fell in love with the possibility that you could probe personality and character. I love the camera's ability to quickly observe and record people's psychological complexities."

Known for her beautiful, archetypal portraits, Tenneson was voted among the top ten most influential women



Joyce Tenneson



Suzanne with Snake, 1991, by Joyce Tenneson

photographers in a poll conducted by *American Photo Magazine*. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines including *Time*, *Life*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Newsweek*, *Premiere*, *Esquire*, and the *New York Times Magazine*.

"People say I have an intimate style. When I photograph people I show their soul," said Tenneson. "I'm interested in their lives. We talk about important things, and they reveal themselves."

Tenneson is the author of thirteen books, including the bestselling *Wise Women*, which documents and celebrates women ages 65 to 100 years old. "I had no role models, and I wondered what it would be like for me to be that age," said Tenneson, now 63. "The media believes as women get older they're less happy. But that's not true. They're happier than they have ever been and would never go back to their 20s and 30s. I learned so much from the project."

Teaching is also an important part of Tenneson's life, and she regularly leads workshops at the Maine Media Workshops in Rockport, Maine. Her next stop is the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops in New Mexico in March.

"I hope people are intrigued by being able to enter new worlds and come away knowing more about life," said Tenneson. "I've learned that life really is a circle."



Dasha, 1998, by Joyce Tenneson

Gallery 27 is located at 27 E. Cota St. Hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8am-9pm, and weekends, 10am-9pm. For more information, call 888-304-3456.