

By Kerry Methner / CASA

A LOCAL ANCHOR IN THE LITERARY WORLD, Mahri Kerley, owner of Chaucer's Bookstore, will switch genres this coming month and display a selection of her travel photography at Indigo Interiors.

Kerley, who was a photographer before she even started Chaucer's explained, "A long, long time ago I had my own dark room back in the 60s. After I had the bookstore, for two or three years, I decided to close it. I didn't have time for darkroom work anymore."

Kerley's photography credits extend back to a three and half year stint in New York before she moved to Santa Barbara in 1969. "There



Mahri Kerley's spontaneous photographs of daily life in India are filled with color and human dignity.

Indigo Interiors Eyes on Photography

Every so often the eye of proprietor Genny Cummings, of Indigo Interiors, lands on something new that she incorporates into her delectable showroom. For this month's 1st Thursday she offers up two local photographers who go for the soul of the image in very different ways...

was a small theatre there where I took pictures during dress rehearsals and I would blow them up and sell them. So I was selling photos back in the 60s."

Currently Kerley works with a digital camera but doesn't edit her photos in Photoshop. "They are as they were taken," she noted, though she also doesn't rule out learning the program.

This exhibit is a way for Kerley to share her joy in taking photographs. These images are of people and color that she captured during her first trip to India in October 2008. She traveled with the Santa Barbara Art Museum and a handful of other explorers for almost three weeks. "It's a marvelous country, overwhelming to all the senses," she recalled. "I'd go back."

Kerley favors taking pictures of people - especially when they don't know they're being taken. "That's what's nice about India," she shared. "They don't mind having their photo taken."

While selecting images to be blown up for the exhibit, Kerley discovered that a number of her best were taken in one very small village when she was wandering around on her own. Perhaps that independence fed her spirit that says of her craft, "I just like taking pictures."



Mahri Kerley

IN 1955 I CAME TO SB TO ATTEND BROOKS

and after a year I ran out of money," shared David Hancock of his lifelong courtship of photography. "I got into another career and retired as a Senior Producer/Director of Media at University of California. All during that time



David Hancock

I retained my experience at Brooks, and photography became a definite hobby of mine." After retirement, Hancock became even more focused on photography, taking on the role of President for both the

F-9 and Channel City Camera clubs. "It is a pretty serious hobby," he emphasized. With the advent of digital photography Hancock felt even more license to make the medium expressive. "Digital photography gave me more freedom to do what I like to do. Digital photography allows us to do what any artist would like to do - produce a picture that has what I want to say, and not necessarily what was there. For so long photographers were limited to what you could see."

In this exhibit Hancock offers images of facades taken during trips throughout Europe as well as a bit of nature photography, "making nature into what I wanted it to be."



David Hancock is a local photographer who's technically precise images vary between European architecture to botanicals, both with his unique perspective.

Given a camera at nine, Hancock immediately started photographing what he wanted - airplanes, sports, and eventually became his high school paper's photographer. At the University of CA he was involved in setting up the student photography program and became the faculty advisor of the photography club.

But, he also stuck to his own vision. Now he'll say that the most important part of that is his ability to pre visualize a picture, then "get rid of all the things that aren't impressive. It is a process of learning how to isolate the subject matter from the mess around it," he explained.

Indigo Interiors is located at 1323 State Street. Reach them at 962-6909. Visit them for 1st Thursday on May 6 from 5 to 8pm.