

You are here: [Home](#) » [EXHIBITIONS](#) » [Jenny Okun - Dreamscapes](#)

Jenny Okun - Dreamscapes

Jenny Okun's trip to Lecce began in 1997, when she was known for her amazing photographic interpretations of modern and contemporary architecture - precise, layered abstractions obtained by manually advancing the film in the camera in order to create multiple overlapping exposures. The result obtained, a sort of cubist decomposition and recomposition of the form, made Jenny's work loved by architects all over the world. "Okun's photographs," said Frank Gehry, "go straight to the soul of architecture."

During her first visit to Lecce, Okun, attracted by the dramatic light reflected on the famous tuff stone of Lecce and the treasures of Baroque architecture scattered throughout Salento, created a series of photographs applying the technique that distinguishes her mainly to sumptuous churches of the city.

In December 2011, Okun returned to Lecce to create a second series of works for the inaugural exhibition and the permanent collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Lecce.

"Looking at architecture" wrote Okun "is like listening to music. They are both dramatic artistic forms that reveal multiple and repetitive themes. And above all, both take time ... when I photograph a building, it is as if I was conducting with my camera while I explore the themes of the architect in space and time. The layering of overlapping harmonious forms creates new and playful variations on the theme of the original architecture".

The photographs from 1999 were all conceived in the camera. In the last decade, however, Okun, a pioneer of digital printing of her work in the nineties, has replaced traditional photographic film with digital photography. A comparison between Lecce's photos from 1999 and those from 2011 reveals an evident expansion of his artistic vision, made possible in part by digital photographic technology. Now Okun combines her photographs taken on site all over the world with advanced digital manipulations in Photoshop to create unique images that are at the same time familiar but "said in other words". The freedom and control that Photoshop offers has not only brought a greater depth of sensations to Okun's work, they also allowed her to be able to confront each subject that attracts her attention. There are still buildings, yes, but also landscapes, gardens, sculptures and nudes, plants and animals that evoke, in the words of the curator Karen Sinsheimer "not only these realities in themselves but the subjective memory of Okun in the experimental".

[Taken from «Dreamscapes: the Photographic Art of Jenny Okun» by Garret White in Introduction to the catalog of the exhibition «The Photographic Art of Jenny Okun 20 April-30 September 2012» held at MUST.

[Download the info on the exhibition](#)

BIOGRAPHY

Born in the USA in 1953

Art School: Wimbledon, Chelsea, Slade (London)

Study in London and Los Angeles

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS

Craig Krull Gallery (Santa Monica), Numark Gallery (Washington), Claudia Carr Gallery (New York), Il Millione (Milan, Italy), Rhona Hoffman Gallery (Chicago), Bertha Urdang Gallery (New York), RIBA Gallery (Royal Institute of British Architects, London), Kashya Hildebrand (New York, Geneva,), Zabriskie Gallerie (Paris), Institute of Contemporary Arts, (London)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

UCLA Armand Hammer (Los Angeles), Tate Gallery (London), Laguna Art Museum (California), Albright Knox (Buffalo), American Center (Paris), Museum of Modern Art (Oxford), Center Pompidou (Paris), Edinburgh Festival (Scotland), Hayward Gallery Annual (London), Brooklyn Museum (New York)

ART COLLECTIONS AND

Victoria and Albert Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Herbert F. Johnson Museum Cornell, Banker's Trust, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Citibank, Hewlett Packard, JP Morgan, Pepsico, Mobil, Texaco, Southern California Gas Corporation, Warner Brothers Music, Dreamworks Music, Mercedes, SONY, Global Crossing, Mazda, Westinghouse, Fox Studios, Bank of America, State Street Bank in London

POSTERS AND IMAGES OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS IN MUSEUMS

J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles (poster); Tate Modern in London (umbrella, T-shirt, notebook, sketchbook, postcards); Whitney Museum in New York (book cover, poster, limited edition prints) for "American Visionaries": Selections from the Whitney Museum of American Art "

OPERA AND THEATER

Don Giovanni è was staged in Los Angeles by the El Dorado Opera Company in 2006, directed by Richard Sparks at the El Portal Theater. Okun created 90 photomontages that were projected onto the walls of the stage.

Brazilian Girls a 30 minute loop movie projected behind the band. Tour 2009: Avalon Hollywood, Treasure Island Music Festival in San Francisco

Dulce Rosa, a new opera commissioned by LA Opera for the 2013 opera season at the Broad Stage in Los Angeles. Music by Lee Holdridge and libretto by Richard Sparks Projected images by Jenny Okun

BOOKS

Dreamscapes: The Photographic Art of Jenny Okun ("Dreamscapes: The Photographic Art of Jenny Okun") - Critical essay by Karen Sinsheimer

Variations: The Architecture Photographs of Jenny Okun ("Variations: Jenny Okun's Architectural Photographs") - Preface by Thom Mayne. Critical essays by Henry T. Hopkins and Michael Webb

American Photography: A Century of Images (related to the PBS TV series) ("American Photographers: A Century of Images") by Vikki Goldberg and Robert Silberman. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, page 227

Nash Editions: Photography and the Art of Digital Printing ("Editions Nash: Photography and the Art of Digital Printing") by Garrett White

The Full Body Project: Photographs by Leonard Nimoy ("The Full Body Project: Photographs by Leonard Nimoy") (charcoal drawings by Jenny Okun)

BBC2 TV Building Sights for which he wrote and presented "Blackburn House, Hampstead", 10 min. (October 1989)

