



Swimming Pool #24 by Karine Laval.

Water, Water Everywhere

What better way to welcome the summer than with an homage to the element that encircles us? by Colin M. Graham

WATER, whether it be an ocean, lake, or pond, is full of symbolism and metaphor. Out here on the East End, we're surrounded by it, so it's almost impossible not to feel its draw, no matter where we turn.

The Tulla Booth Gallery in Sag Harbor is celebrating this abundant, powerful, and beautiful resource with an exhibition entitled "Water," on display through June 30.

"I feel they're very inspirational," says gallery owner Tulla Booth of the images in the show. "Some are slightly calmer, while others are very dramatic. Either way, they're all quite exciting. They make you feel closer to God."

HAMPTONS: How long have you had your gallery?

TULLA BOOTH: I've been out here since 1984, but have been running the gallery for five years, specializing in fine arts photography. I represent 21 different photographers, most of whom are local at least in the sense that they live out here part time, but the shots in the exhibition were all taken locally. I got started in the art world as a jewelry designer, but drifted away from that and eventually became a photographer myself about 15 years ago.

H: Tell us a little about the exhibition.

TB: Well, we were pretty keen on water, as you can tell by the title, so I decided to take prominent artists who specialize in that and put it together in an exhibition. I tried to put together an exhibition with photographers who complement each other, and timeless and poignant pieces. I never want to put a piece up and have someone say, "I could have taken that picture."

H: Who are some of the artists you chose?

TB: There's Blair Seagram—her work is almost documentary in nature. She strings several sequences of pictures together into one long, action-packed, panoramic print photograph.

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Then there's Jane Martin, whose video stills are very exciting as they tend to have a dreamy quality to them—slightly soft focus and off-balance. Jake Rajs, who travels around the world shooting, is actually coming out with a book in August on Southampton [*Beyond the Dunes: Portrait of the Hamptons*], so we used two very special images,

which are in the window of the gallery. Susan Meisel specifically deals with the Hamptons, so we picked some very powerful pieces—her water shots from her book *Hamptons Pleasures*.

H: How did you narrow them down?

TB: These particular artists have a passion for how they perceive water. I think they're very evocative, and their work has the ability to stand alone. For example, Susan's pieces vividly capture the essence of a day. Not every day at the beach in summer or winter has blue skies, but every day is beautiful. *Tulla Booth Gallery, 66 Main Street, Sag Harbor, 725-3100; tullaboothgallery.com.*



Tulla Booth.

photographs courtesy of Karine Laval (SWIMMING POOL); Renate (BOOTH); Blair Seagram (SURFERS)

Ditch Plain Surfers 11-10-07 by Blair Seagram.

