

# The Photo Exchange

## Lisa Eisner Exhibition at M+B Gallery

by Jim McKinniss on April 30, 2010



Psychonaut © by Lisa Eisner courtesy M+B gallery, Los Angeles

M+B is pleased to present *Psychonaut*, an exhibition and installation by artist Lisa Eisner. Eisner who is best known for her photographic explorations of the American West (publications include *Shriners and Rodeo Girl*) has turned her eye to nature with *Psychonaut*, an amalgam of the past four years of her work. In the artist's words it is as if she "threw the photos in the air and cut them all up as they were falling down". *Psychonaut* is a kaleidoscopic adventure into a vibrant world of seeming randomness, a collection of one-of-a-kind assemblages without editions and without using Photoshop that is her most personal work to date.

Taking the title from the Greek word meaning literally, "a sailor of the mind/soul," *Psychonaut* explores the journey of a spiritual seeker who uses altered states of consciousness to address spiritual questions in a modern way, without the use of psilocybin.

Eisner draws inspiration from the kindred spirit of Buckminster Fuller and his geodesic domes, Native American culture, geometry, nature, birds, and a homegrown spirituality. Her method is to, "accidentally discover what isn't an accident" by working hands-on with the images. She is informed by the colors and textures of the photos rather than the themes and composition, and allows the process to guide the series. What emerges is a handcrafted, three-dimensional psychedelic explosion that is alternately bright and soothing, meditative and disorienting.

*Psychonaut* does not explain but self-propagates the creative source from where it came. Eisner collaborated with Matt Monroe on the dome structure for *Psychonaut* and with Haley Alexander van Oosten/L'oeil du Vert on the scent sculptures. Lisa Eisner, an avowed *psychonaut* of the California-by-way-of-Wyoming variety, is a photojournalist, fashion editor and co-founder of Greybull Press. She is a frequent contributor to *Vanity Fair*, *W Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Paris Vogue*, *GQ*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband Eric and their two sons Charlie and Louie. This is her second solo exhibition with M+B.

The exhibition opens May 1, 2010 and will run through June 5, 2010, with an opening reception for the artist on Saturday, May 1 from 6 – 8 pm.

M+B is located at  
612 North Almont Drive  
Los Angeles, California 90069

Contact:

310. 550. 0050

[shannon@mbfala.com](mailto:shannon@mbfala.com), or visit our website [www.mbart.com](http://www.mbart.com).

[info@mbfala.com](mailto:info@mbfala.com)

By Jim McKinniss