

PERSONAL WORK

WINNER

Mona Kuhn
Los Angeles, California

Mona Kuhn just returned from the rain forests of her native Brazil, where she was gathering material for a book titled *Native*—her third to be published by Steidl. Her home now is Los Angeles, where since 1998 she has been an independent studies scholar researching art history at the Getty Research Institute. Kuhn's work is shaped by her own life experiences, but always informed by what has come before. She made these images, for instance, in Venice, Italy, working with five models for a week in two palazzos along the Grand Canal. "I wanted to translate the overall feeling of being there into my own visual vocabulary," she says. In the image of the nude (opposite), her studies of how the Renaissance Masters dealt with shadows melded with the trust and mutual respect she shared with her models. The photo below resulted from her feeling of being above water at all times; she used an underwater camera and shot from a vintage boat. For more, visit monakuhn.com.



From Mona Kuhn's series of images shot in Venice, Italy.

