

Photography by *deedee deGelia*

by Devon Pettengill / CASA

A S A CHILD, DEEDEE DEGELIA LIKED TO SPEND TIME ON THE ROOF OF HER MOTHER'S HOUSE,

engaged in long periods of daydreaming and gazing at the stars in the night sky, enjoying a great sense of stillness that transported her to an imaginary place. When she creates a photograph, this is the space that she wants to return to, to capture an element of timelessness, to escape her own world and yet still run into it.



The Seer II by deedee deGelia

Most of deGelia's photographic subjects are people she has gotten to know in the community.

"There is something I saw in them that I thought I could communicate visually through my photography," deGelia shared. "There is a variation of my emotions in all of these images."

DeGelia's art is inspired by observing people's movement. When she was younger, she found herself studying how more mature people moved through life.

"When you meet a person, you can tell a lot about them in the first few minutes by their pacing and movements, their mood, if they are sensual, if they are living in the moment, if they're more tactile or intellectual," DeGelia explained.

DeGelia attended the University of Texas and studied in the art department for several semesters, before deciding to study business in hopes of having a more financially secure career than the art world could offer. After a career of more than 17 years in human resources management, she found she was ready for a change.

She soon visited Santa Barbara and the Brooks Institute, which she had had an interest in since she visited there as a teenager. Next thing she knew, she was in

photography classes. She completed a Bachelor's Degree in Professional Photography in August of 2007.

DeGelia's shooting style involves a lot of movement and contorted positions, resulting in images that are complex but serene. She believes no one element within each image upstages another.

"My subjects and viewers have often told me that I have a way of pulling the minds and souls of my subjects onto the page, accenting them with a textured and theatrical flair, while retaining a pure and artless sexuality," deGelia shared.

She admits there is a dark side to her creativity that is inspired by a darker part of the world. Versions of memories of terrible world events and her own mysterious and intense dreams find their way into her work as more dramatic images.

In addition to being inspired by astronomy and mythology, deGelia's work also involves a passion for travel. Traveling and taking photographs allows her to recognize a connection between her space and her existence, and someone else's.

The beauty of Santa Barbara impacts deGelia's creative process, and she



deedee deGelia



The Three Graces I by deedee deGelia

appreciates the great appreciation and support of the community, which she believes thrives on the diversity of its creative citizens, who help define how the rest of us experience the world.

deGelia's photography will be on display in the CASA Magazine office at 23 E. Canon Perdido St., open from 9am-5:30pm, Mon-Fri, until March 25th.