

# Corridan Gallery: Murphy Kuhn

## Further: Inner and Outer Explorations

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**B**Y ADDING HIS OWN ARTISTIC TOUCH to an image, photographer Murphy Kuhn shows us the world as we have never seen it.

“I have a vivid imagination,” said Kuhn. “I look at something and it pops with possibilities.”

A collection of Kuhn’s photography, which includes landscapes, abstracts, and natural flora and fauna, is on display at the Corridan Gallery through July 25th. A



Luck (22"x30") by **Murphy Kuhn**



**Murphy Kuhn**

reception will be held for the artist Saturday, June 13th from 4 to 7pm. Almost entirely self-taught, Kuhn has had to trust his instincts and maintain a sense of adventure to master digital photography methods. “Everything I do is inside me. My images are more feeling than a rendering of what is. I don’t know where it comes from, but it never surprises me,” he said. “It’s a need, an obsession to create. Sometimes I have no clue what’s going to happen and by the end of the day I’ll have something I’m happy with.”

Although he worked in a dark room developing film for an advertising agency as a young man, Kuhn has had no formal training in art or photography. “I remember going to the art museum in Los Angeles with my mother when I was a kid,” he said. “I saw all the masters like Van Gogh, Manet,

and Miró. I guess all that stuff stuck.” Now, he finds inspiration in the work of photographers such as Ernst Haas, Pete Turner, and A. Aubrey Bodine.

Kuhn moved to Santa Barbara in 1968 after serving in Vietnam and attended SBCC where he studied graphic arts, botany, and marine biology. His first camera came from a pawn shop, which he obtained while a student. After borrowing a digital camera from his brother, Kuhn has never looked back—no more chemicals, no more mess. “It opened up a new, already familiar world for me,” he said. “With the computer, I can bring another dimension to the image that people don’t see.”

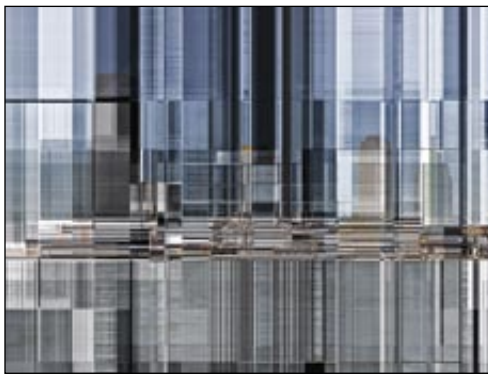
For the past five years, Kuhn has devoted all his time to photography. Kuhn worked as a commercial fisherman for 34 years, but upon retiring, he spent nearly every day for two years in front of the computer learning the programs he needed to create his artwork.

The hard work has paid off.

Kuhn has received numerous awards and has been honored four years in a row at the IPA Lucie Awards, an international photography competition. His work was included in the IPA *Best of Show* exhibit for 2008, which is touring eight countries. Although he has shown his work locally, this marks Kuhn’s first official solo show.

“The more people refer to me as an artist, the more comfortable I become,” he said. “I feel like this is what I was supposed to do. I feel like this is me.”

The Corridan Gallery is located at 125 North Milpas St. Hours are 11am to 5pm, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 966-7939 or visit [www.corridan-gallery.com](http://www.corridan-gallery.com).



Across the Hudson (22" x 30") by **Murphy Kuhn**



Migration IV (30"x40") by **Murphy Kuhn**