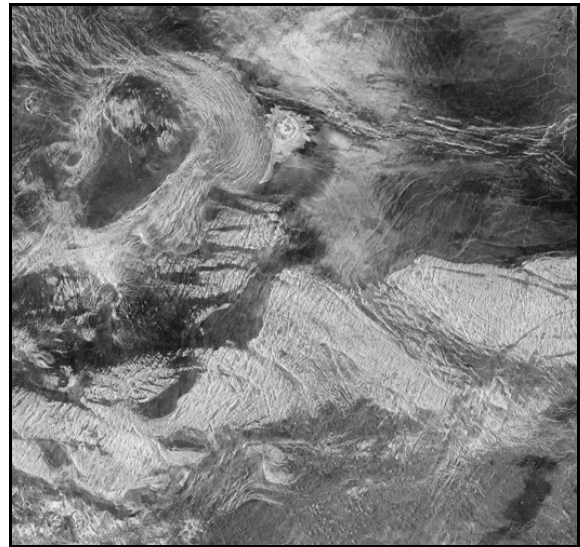


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Long View Gallery Presents “*Images from... Beyond: Visions of Our Solar System*,” by Michael Benson



The Summit of Olympus Mons
chromogenic photographic print, 36x38
Credit: ESA; DLR; FU Berlin (G. Neukum); Michael Benson,
Kinetikon Pictures



Tusholi Corona
chromogenic photographic print, 57x55
Credit: NASA; JPL; USGS; Michael Benson
Kinetikon Pictures

Show Dates: September 16 – October 24

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 16, 6:30-8:30pm

Film Screening: Sunday, September 26, 6:00-8:30pm (with talk by Michael Benson)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Long View Gallery is pleased to announce a ground breaking photography exhibition, “*Images from... Beyond: Visions of Our Solar System*” by celebrated photographer, filmmaker and journalist Michael Benson.

“These works combine scientific knowledge of the subjects, the technical mastery of cutting-edge photo graphic printing media, and archival quality.”

-David Acton, Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at the Worcester Art Museum

“[Benson’s images] are vividly, compellingly real; they astonish and bewilder, luring the viewer into a state of wonder.”

-Edward Rothstein, The New York Times

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Beginning in 1995, Michael Benson began hunting through hundreds of thousands of solar system photographs, dating as far back as the late 1960's, to find raw or partially processed images with potential significance in the photographic landscape. As locator, editor and curator of these images, which were originally taken by interplanetary probes traveling through space, Benson devoted substantial time to the creation of composite mosaics and the optimization of this body of work for print production. Benson describes himself as "the author, in many cases, of the final composite images. Most of the resulting images wouldn't exist in anything like the form seen without substantial work."

Benson frequently seeks color data from various filters to create amalgams based on actual information from the source spacecraft. His attention to detail and belief in the realistic presentation of celestial bodies results in a more accurate view of the Beyond than the illustrated examples we have grown up with in textbooks and on television.

While Benson's images strike you first with their arresting beauty, a certain uneasiness can follow due to the realization that our preconceptions concerning what these planets and moons look like are frequently so far from reality. Despite having seen images of Mars, for example, since elementary school, many people find that Benson's processed photographs of this and other planets reveal wholly foreign landscapes. The result can be a sense of revelation.

The aesthetic beauty of Benson's photographs is undeniable, but he hopes there are larger lessons to be learned. He writes, "Venus is the victim of a runaway greenhouse effect...with heat on its surface hot enough to melt lead. Mars, by contrast, lost much of its atmosphere and is a frigid desert." As John Schwartz of The New York Times says, "as visual metaphors for environmental extremes, Mr. Benson's images nonetheless have a way of taking hold in the mind."

About the Gallery

Reopened in October 2009 as an art and event space, Long View Gallery concurrently highlights the talent of Washington-based artists and operates as a premiere venue for private functions. The gallery mostly exhibits contemporary figural painting by both mid-career and emerging artists, but has recently launched a corporate art consultancy branch whose diverse portfolio runs the gamut of abstract sculpture to photography. Long View Gallery additionally offers design consultations to both individual and corporate clients, as well as an in-house custom framing service. In summer 2010, the gallery will unveil an outdoor sculpture courtyard that faces historic Blagden Alley. Business hours are Wednesdays to Saturdays, 11am-6pm; Sundays, 12pm-5pm; and by appointment.

Gallery Contact

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