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# SPOTLIGHT

{ K A R E N G L A S E R }



## ***Exhibition***

### The Mark of Water: Florida's Springs and Swamps

*On view through May 29th at the Southeast  
Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach*

[www.smponline.org](http://www.smponline.org)

FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, Karen Glaser has documented amazing worlds beneath the surface of water. The photographs in this exhibition offer unique views of rare landscapes “inside” Florida’s springs, swamps and waterways.

The exquisite natural light that graces these landscapes is used solely to illuminate the images. No attempt is made by the artist to slick up the locations or the pictures—the photographs are as layered and rich as the environments.

The pictures are from two related bodies of work, *Springs* and *Swamps*. The first series was shot in the pristine freshwater rivers and springs of north and central Florida. This exploration, and the resulting photographs, inspired Glaser to trek to the southern part of the state, where the most magnificent and ancient swamps are located—Big Cypress National Preserve and its neighbor, Everglades National Park.

“The wetland environments of Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park contain many unique eco-

systems, including: freshwater and saltwater marshes, dry and wet prairies, hardwood hammocks, mangrove forests, vast acres of primeval swamp and, of course, the river of grass,” notes Glaser. “The tie that binds these extraordinary regions and these photographs together is water. Much of this underwater world is primordial, alien and seductive, and only partially touched by the hand of culture and society.”



*Karen Glaser*  
**DOCUMENTS**  
*amazing WORLDS*  
**BENEATH the**  
*surface of WATER.*

For most of us, water is far from our day-to-day consciousness and concern. These pictures remind us of the intricate and infinite nature of water.

“Photographing the Florida freshwaters has become an emotional and spiritual process for me, as well as an artistic one,” says Glaser. “I am acutely aware of all the elements: earth, water, fire and air, and how they intermix. I am driven to translate this visceral experience into my pho-

tographs. My work evolves like a river with many tributaries.”

Karen Glaser was born and raised in Pittsburgh. She holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute, and an MFA from Indiana University, Bloomington. She is recognized for her sus-

tained and expert practice of innovative underwater photography and for covering various aquatic subjects. Most recently she was appointed as the 2010 Photographer Laureate for the City of Tampa. Glaser’s work is widely exhibited and her photo-

graphs are held in many public collections, including: the Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego; New York Public Library; Museum of Science, Miami; Port of Miami; and the Florida Art in State Buildings Collection. **ON VIEW**



**OPPOSITE: (TOP TO BOTTOM):**

1. *EDGE OF ORANGE GROVE SINK*, 2006\*
2. *POLLEN SKIN*, 2009\*

**ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM):**

1. *DUST STORM IN CATFISH SINK*, 2006\*
2. *GATOR FLAG*, 2008\*
3. *AIR PLANT*, 2009\*

\*PIGMENT PRINT ON HAHNEMÜHLE PHOTO RAG, 37 x 25”

**LEFT:**

KAREN GLASER (WITH “FRANKIE”),  
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST