

Arts Council of Placer County

perspectives

Arts Newsmagazine & Calendar of Events September / October 2002



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Profile: Frank "Pancho" Willmarth
Western Placer County's Autumn Art Studios Tour
Cowboy Poetry in Loomis
Tahoe's 2002 International Film Festival





Extreme Photographer

Traveling the world, Keoki Flagg captures striking images of diverse peoples and top extreme athletes

"Lone Skier," a wall-size Photograph by Keoki Flagg.

by Anne Grogan

Squaw Valley artist Keoki Flagg uses advanced technology to produce his large-scale photographs and contracted advertising images, yet at times still uses cardboard cameras made from oatmeal cans to perfect his printing skills. Keoki calls himself a traditionalist, yet his lifestyle has always been one of non-conformity. At 37, he is changing the face of photographic arts and, like the content of his work, might be best described as a composition in contrast.

Keoki lived in Hawaii until age six, when his father, a highly successful entrepreneur and Businessman of the Year, quit his job to spend time traveling with his family. First, the Flagg family made its way to a small town in Spain, where Keoki and his three siblings attended school for a year. "I'd say that year in

Spain planted the seed for my love and appreciation of different cultures," Keoki says. Next, they traveled in a Volkswagen camper until settling, for the next school year, in a small town in Switzerland. In 1974, the family returned to Hawaii, where they lived before setting out again to tour Europe in another camper. The children were homeschooled and kept journals of their travels. The Flaggs went from Europe to the Middle East, and from Israel into Cypress. In 1977, the family settled 30 kilometers from Chamonix, France, where Keoki developed his love for skiing. The next year they returned home.

At that time, Keoki was sculpting, using ceramic, wood and metal. "I learned to try to transfer the physical energy [of an object] into a physical shape," he says.

