



The Himalayan News

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HIMALAYAN

APRIL 2018 ISSUE 3



Doug Kofsky

Sankar Sridhar

Jack Brauer

Ashok Dilwali

Ivan Fodor

THE PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

With great pleasure, we welcome you to the third issue of The Himalayan News.

This is a special Photography issue dedicated to some of the outstanding mountain photographers across the globe.

Doug Kofsky, based in New York, gives us a mesmerizing essay on the mountains of the Karakoram. The Baltoro is home to some of the greatest peaks including K2 – the second highest mountain in the world. For us, in India, it is a great tragedy that due to political reasons we will never get the permission to visit a vast part of the Karakoram and hence for us Kofsky's images assume great importance.

Award winning photographer Sankar Sridhar has spent many winters in Ladakh. For all of us who visit Ladakh during the summer months, winter is a totally different ball game. Temperatures go down to -30 degrees Celsius, water freezes in the tents at night, chilling winds and numbing cold makes photography in winter not a pursuit for the faint of heart. Yet, Sridhar has been doing this year after year and his essay reflects the subtle nuances of light and colour in this high altitude desert.

Jack Brauer, who has photographed mountains around the world, brings us images from the wilderness areas of the Colorado Rockies. Though these peaks are smaller in height as compared to the Baltoro giants and the Himalaya, Brauer's skillful use of light and waiting for the right moment shows us the purity, grandeur and unique character of these mountains.

Ashok Dilwali is one of India's most respected mountain photographers and he has been shooting the Himalaya for more than forty years. From his large collection, Dilwali presents an essay on the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalaya, a region very close to his heart and where he has shot for a number of books.

Finally, Slovakian photographer Ivan Fodor who is often based in Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn gives us a series of magical black and white images of the Alps to round up this incredible issue.

One request from us to improve your viewing experience – do try to see these images on a large monitor rather than on a phone!

We hope to cover more such specialist topics in the coming issues of The Himalayan News.

With spring at our doorstep, as the cliché goes, summer cannot be far behind and the climbing and trekking season will soon be starting in the Himalaya.

We wish you all the very best for the coming months.

Sujoy Das
Rupamanjari Biswas
Editors

*Cover: An eye of thaw fixes its gaze on the sun as it moves across the sky. Streams and underwater vents create such little pools of water on the Pangong Tso.
Photo : Sankar Sridhar*

Mt. Siniolchu in the Zemu valley, Sikkim
Photo : Sujoy Das



THE KARAKORAM

GIANTS OF THE BALTORO

Doug Kofsky

The word Karakoram is believed to be from Ancient Turkic - meaning “Great Rock”. Quite an understatement. It had been a mythical place to me from the moment I saw photographs of it.

When I was growing up I pored over the images of mountain photographers like Vittorio Sella, Galen Rowell & Ace Kvale - in books & other places like Climbing Magazine. Among many photos of mountains, the images of the Karakoram struck me as unique. The architecture and magnitude of their form was on another level, the ultimate mountain environment. I dreamed of going one day, especially to see K2, the “mountain of mountains”.

I have now been lucky enough to have been to see the Karakoram on two occasions. One journey went through Pakistan to K2 from her southern side, the other was to see her from the north, which went through Xinjiang Province, China. It is a wonderful place to take photos. The light is turbulent yet with great clarity & tone. The mountain lines are bold & clear. The elegant umber tones of rock and mind boggling scale are unlike anywhere else in the world.

Trango Sunset - Pakistan, 2011





The Great Trango Towers - Pakistan, 2011



Masherbrum (K1) - Pakistan, 2011



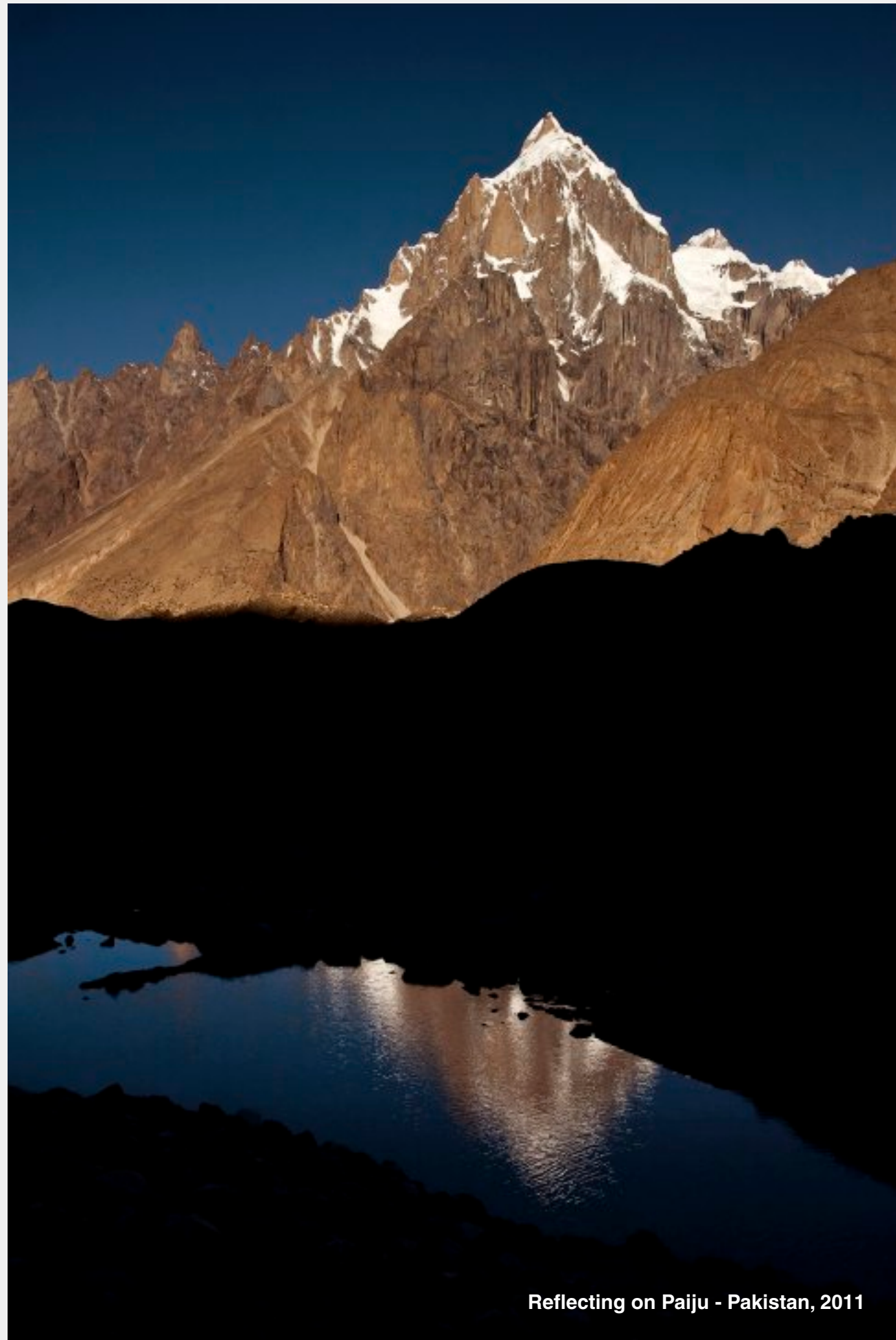
Shaksgam Valley Dusk - Xinjiang, 2014



Dawn on K2 - Pakistan, 2011



Dusk on the Gasherbrum Massif - Pakistan, 2011



Reflecting on Paiju - Pakistan, 2011

My name is Doug Kofsky. I am a photographer & adventurer with a deep passion for the beauty of mountains. This passion has taken me and my camera to many magical places all over the world. In particular my inspiration has led me to the mighty ranges of the Himalaya and Karakoram in Asia. It is here where the largest mountains in the world lie.

I view my work as a way to share the spiritual connection I feel with these wild places. There is something in these landscapes that inspires me, and yet soothes my soul and brings me to a place of inner balance and peace. My hope is that when people look at my images they are taken to these same places emotionally - to feel how it feels to stand in the presence of giants, and to gain a perspective & appreciation for the gifts of the earth.

When I'm not in a tent somewhere I'm based out of New York City where I create giant prints of my landscapes and organize expeditions to find the next beautiful mountain. You can learn more about me and see more of my work at www.dougekofsky.com.



LADAKH

INDIA'S OWN NARNIA

Sankar Sridhar

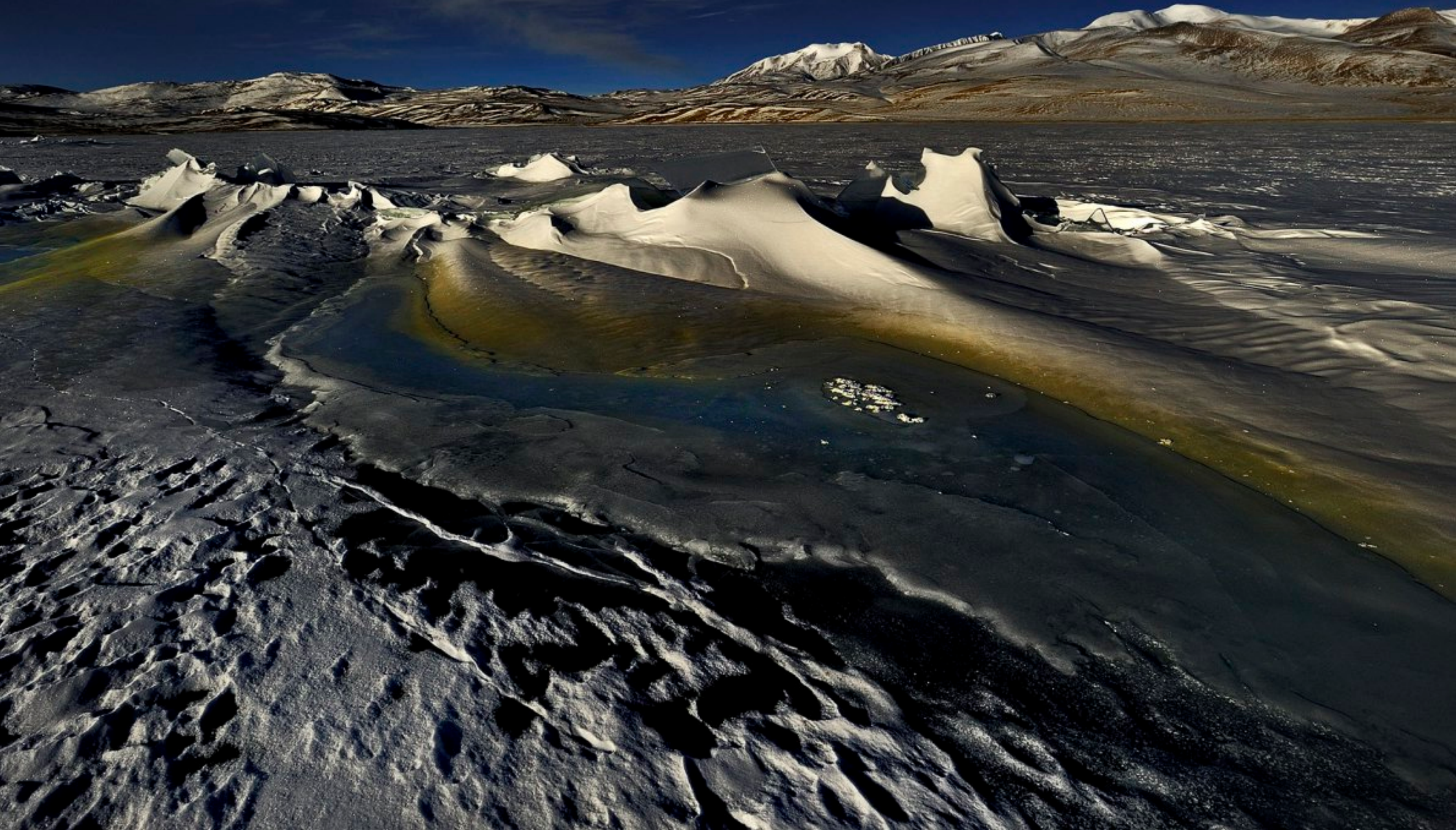
Ladakh is no stranger to visitors. Over centuries, this high desert in the trans-himalaya has seen more than its fair share — from traders during the days of the Silk Route to adventures before and after that, and the glut of tourists and trekkers today. And while this showman land never known to disappoint, it has only been rewarded in hardscrabble definitions: Desolate, barren, lifeless, a place where sunburn and frostbite go hand in hand ... the list is long. Over my nearly two-decade tryst with this land, however, I have come to look at it differently. Exposed, vulnerable, and overrun are words that come easily to mind. Another, is bewitchingly beautiful.

It was my attempt to capture these facets that took me there in winter for the first time nearly a decade ago. I wanted to witness a Ladakh few would have seen — with its seriously sub-zero temperatures, and storms that pack wind speeds of more than 90mph. But how can one capture cold in land that sees very little snow? How does one capture wind in a place that is uninhabited, at a time when nothing grows? The answers lay in long walks to frozen lakes, to finding storms and waiting for the light to work its magic. A decade since I began, I am still nowhere close to outgrowing my wonder for the Changthang.

Some sunsets are best enjoyed looking down, enjoying the view and realising snow, slush and hard ice reflect light in extraordinarily different ways. This evening was spent staring at the frozen surface of the Tsomo-riri, a lake at 4,530 metres



One of the Twin lakes of Kyun Tso, little known and almost never explored in winter. The lake is at an altitude of 4,850 metres





The silver light of the full moon makes the perfect complement for deep snow. This image was made at a time during my failed attempt to try and complete the land route from Kargil into the Zaskar. It left no doubt in my mind as to why the Zaskaris discovered and made full use of the Chadar, today a popular and abused trek



Shooting a storm often involves going against every grain of common sense, and blowing sand. In this case, it involved getting pushed around on a stream frozen so solid by cold that its peacock-tail sediment rose like goose bumps on its surface



From high atop an outcrop, Tsomo-riri's winter until the final freeze spreads comes as close to Saturn's rings as earth would allow. Changpa nomads often take advantage of the freeze to use the lake as a highway, shaving several kilometres of walking time

The sun and wind use blocks of fractured ice as their muse, carving fascinating, ephemeral sculptures. Like this one, resembling a dinosaur skull. Kyagar Tso, aka Thadsang Kharu, a lake at 4,670 metres





Sankar Sridhar is a photographer, travel writer, and author best known for his evocative landscapes and immersive works on India's pastoral communities.

An editor by profession and a banker (and mountaineer) by training, Sridhar has pursued his love for travel and photography for more than two decades now.

His photographic works have won many awards, including the Humanity Grand Photo Awards, International Mountain Summit, Banff Mountain Photography Awards, the Lucie Awards and the Siena International Photography Awards. His photographs have been exhibited in galleries across the US and Europe as part of exhibitions, most recently at the C40 Mayors Summit on Climate Change, in Mexico.

His images and articles have been published in magazines including Geographical, Action Asia, Geo, National Geographic Traveller India, Outlook Traveller and the Daily Mail, and graced the calendars of WWF and Nikon Global.

You could follow Sankar Sridhar's journeys on instagram @sankar.sridhar and @sankarsridhar.photography on FB. He can be contacted via his website www.sankarsridhar.com.



Like a bird sitting pretty on its nest, a solitary ice sculpture rise from the surface of the Ya Ya Tso (4,720 metres). Such dramatic and near-mysterious formations are Ladakh's mainstay, though there aren't too many who witness them first-hand

THE COLORADO ROCKIES

Jack Brauer

The Colorado Rockies aren't the biggest or most awesome mountains in the world, but they are arguably the most paradisiacal. Rolling tundra meadows filled with wildflowers, emerald alpine lakes, vast forests of quaking aspens, rugged peaks overhead, and large herds of elk and other animals all combine to create an alpine paradise.

During the summertime monsoon season the mornings typically start out with blue skies, and like clockwork by early afternoons the clouds build up and finally unleash terrifying thunderstorms that boom through the mountains. But the excitement is usually short-lived; after a few hours the clouds relax and dissipate with the last rays of sunset lighting them up like cotton candy in the sky.

A multitude of designated wilderness areas has preserved much of the pristine character of these mountains, and an abundance of roads and trailheads provide relatively easy access to much of the range. All of these factors together make the Colorado Rockies a paradise for hikers, backpackers, and photographers alike.

Moonlight illuminates Wetterhorn Peak in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado. The three prominent stars above are Sirius, Betelgeuse, and Aldebaran





Winter camp and moonlight above Blue Lake, San Juan Mountains, Colorado - October

Afternoon sunlight shines on the Maroon Bells fourteeners,
as seen from high in the Elk Mountains, Colorado - July



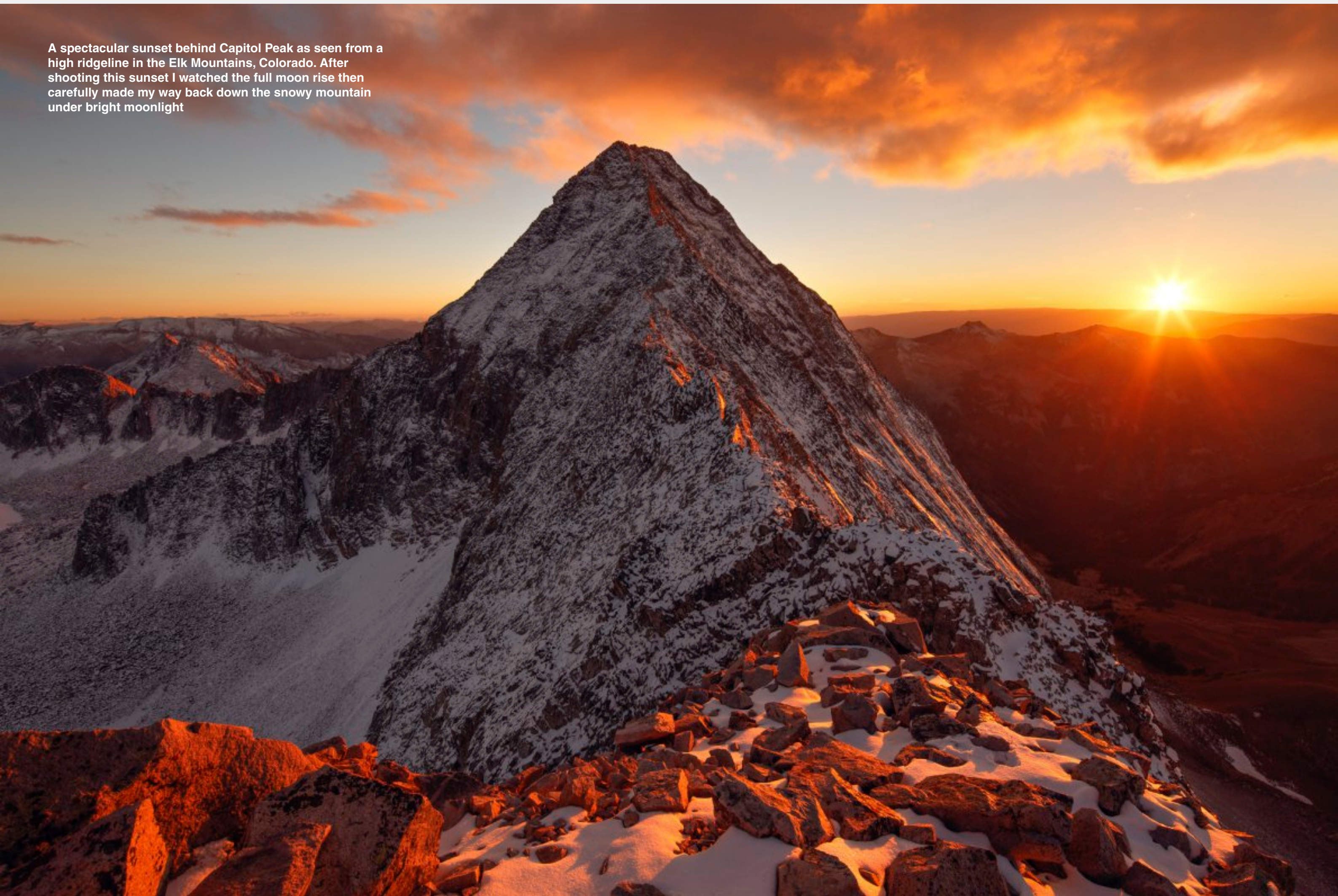


Rich sunset light filters through the aspens on McClure Pass in the Elk Mountains, Colorado -September



Autumn vista of the Sneffels Range and its numerous golden aspen groves, San Juan Mountains, Colorado - October

A spectacular sunset behind Capitol Peak as seen from a high ridgeline in the Elk Mountains, Colorado. After shooting this sunset I watched the full moon rise then carefully made my way back down the snowy mountain under bright moonlight





Jack Brauer is a nature photographer with a focus on mountain landscapes. Though he has visited and photographed numerous great mountain ranges around the world including the Himalaya, Alps, Andes, and more, his heart still belongs to the Rockies and the southwestern Colorado Rockies in particular.

Though Jack's passion for the mountains long preceded his passion for photography, he has found that photography often provides the motivation to explore places he might not usually hike to, in weather he might not usually prefer to hike in, at times of day that he might usually rather be sleeping. The result is that his photography takes him to spectacular scenes he might not witness otherwise, and he hopes to share these scenes with others through his photos and [prints](#).

Jack makes most of his photographs in wilderness areas, usually backpacking for many miles and oftentimes bushwhacking through the woods to explore places where no trails exist.

One goal of his photography is to record and communicate some of those moments of paradise in nature. Also more generally, he wants to celebrate the purity, grandeur and unique character of different mountains and perhaps inspire people to experience and respect the remaining wilderness.

Jack's photography has been collected by print customers in all of the lower 48 United States and a dozen countries, and has been [published worldwide in numerous magazines, calendars, and other publications](#).

www.mountainphotography.com



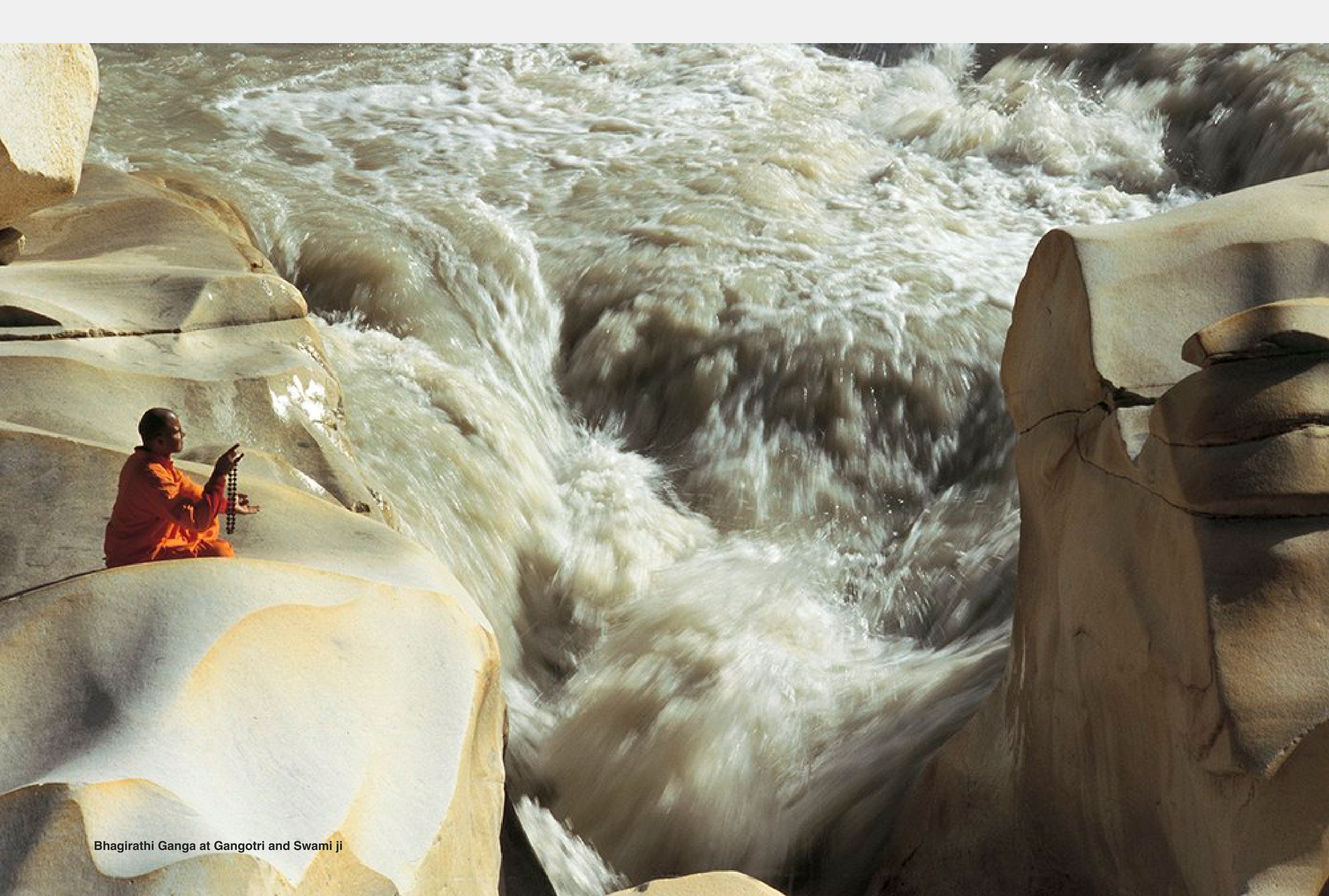
Mt. Sneffels and the Milky Way on a new moon night in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. The green color behind Sneffels is airglow, a common phenomenon of natural chemical reactions in the atmosphere

GARHWAL & KUMAON HIMALAYA

Ashok Dilwali

Rhododendron blossoms in the spring
while late winter snow still stands on the
ground





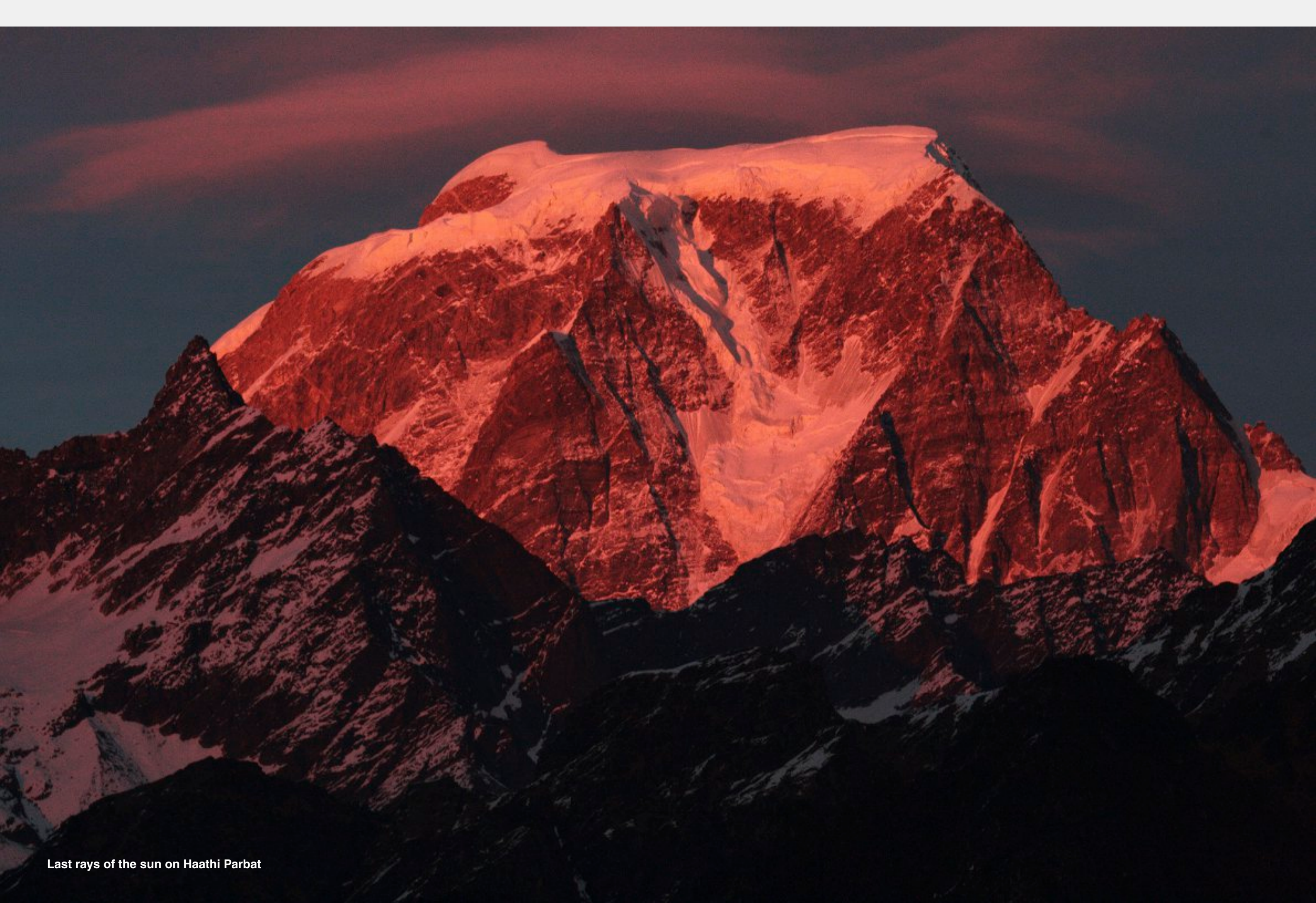
Bhagirathi Ganga at Gangotri and Swami ji



Dawn at Buranskhanda



Sunrise on Nanda Devi massif from Binsar



Last rays of the sun on Haathi Parbat



Ashok Dilwali, aged 70 years is a Professional Photographer since 1971.

After schooling from Modern School he graduated in Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce and then went to join A F Ferguson & Co to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. He entered the profession in 1971 and modernized his studio specializing in Studio Portraiture, Outdoor Assignments, Colour Laboratory and allied fields of photography like printing and processing.

He then developed his hobby of trekking in the Himalaya which has made him a household name for his expertise on landscapes of the Himalaya. He has produced 23 books so far and work is in progress on the 24th publication. In all these years he has contributed to several newspapers, magazines and journals, both articles as well as photographs. His forte remains landscapes.

He is a member of India International Centre, India Habitat Centre, Indian Mountaineering Foundation, Royal Photographic Society of UK and a Fellow of Royal Geographic Society.

He has also been exhibiting his work at various avenues and has guided many young aspirants and initiated them in this field of landscape work.

Today he is very active and is a guide to many who wish to learn the craft and art of his field and shoots for the pure pleasure of photography.

<http://www.ashokdilwali.com>



The forest in Autumn

MATTERHORN & THE ALPS

Ivan Fodor



Matterhorn by night



Lost in powder snow



Schwarzsee, Zermatt



Enjoy the Silence



Matterhorn from the train

Klein Matterhorn



Matterhorn winter time

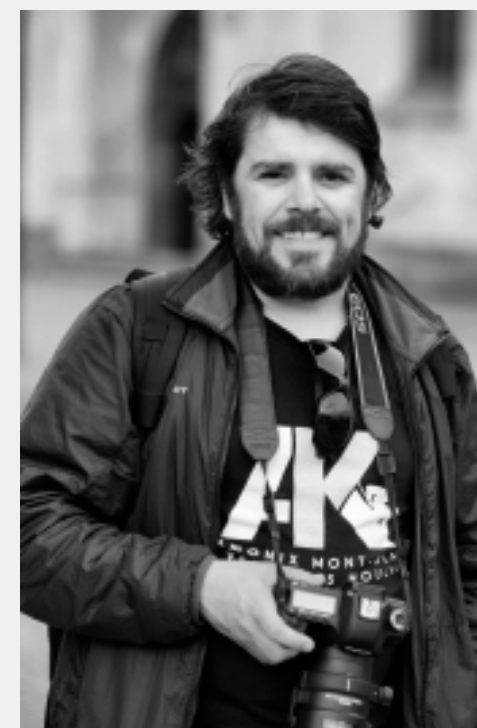
Born in the Slovakia's heartland, town of Banská Bystrica, Ivan Fodor spends most of his life travelling around the globe. He presently lives and works in Banská Bystrica | Slovakia & Zermatt | Switzerland.

He is comfortable to visit some of the most remote parts of our planet, including hiking deep within the Himalayan range or experiencing life among nomadic tribes.

Ivan seeks not only to photograph, but to understand, accept and enjoy what is happening around. In order to capture his vision, he prefers to travel slowly, immerse himself into the cultures, and familiarise with the place, local customs & people.

As a photographer and an observer, Ivan has mastered the universal, and the only communication tool that the Earth has with the Universe – the light. His photographs, dialogues with significant and photogenic locations on our planet, are a living, continuously growing and developing organism. Some are included in his books, many are currently presented in different galleries, private collections, and available on internet, openly confronting Ivan's point of view with the view of other people taking pictures (and today it is almost everybody).

The technique of interception of the process – open shutter of camera and video, brings forward greater openness to the world, light & time dimension. The time is ripe for all of us to contribute by their share in this existential understanding. www.ivanfodor.sk



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