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Sunday, 28 August 2011

Summer Print Offer: Ctein's Big Digital Print Sale



Ctein, *Apollo-Soyuz in Floodlights, Cape Canaveral, 1975*

UPDATE, Sept. 2, 2011: Sale has ended.

Conclusion first: Our sales run for **five days only**, in this case starting now and ending on Friday at noon. Here's the direct link to the sale page [*Link removed—sale ended 12 noon CST Friday, September 2, 2011*]. Also as usual, the prices for these 17x22" Ultrachrome prints are low, barely more than you'd pay for a fine poster. The first print is only \$140. (That's 1/2 the normal price Ctein charges.) The second print is \$125, the third \$110, and the fourth only \$95. That goes for multiples of the same print, different prints, or any combination of the two.

More about our mad method later.

By popular demand: Like many of our sales, this one was essentially suggested by readers. Ctein, whose regular weekly column appears here on TOP on Wednesdays, wrote about one of the most difficult photographs he had ever made, "Apollo-Soyuz in Floodlights, Cape Canaveral, 1975" (above), in a column called *No One Cares How Hard You Worked*. Many readers asked for the opportunity to buy a print of this image. Good call, too: the print is stunning, with an impact only suggested by the on-screen JPEG.



Swamp with Lilypads Near Loch Sionascaig, Scotland, 1995

More pictures: Ctein's previous sales have been among our most popular, but this one is the first one in which he hasn't offered prints made with the esoteric dye transfer method in which he is expert. Accordingly, I asked him if he could provide some additional pictures from his dye transfer portfolio crafted as inkjets. Of the three we chose, he picked one and I picked two.

Turns out the "translation" from dyes to inkjets led to some very interesting technical and aesthetic issues, which Ctein and I will be discussing a bit more here on TOP in the days before the sale ends.



Cinder Cone North Trail, Lassen Volcanic Park, California, 1985

Big 17 x 22" prints: The other opportunity that seemed obvious was to make these prints bigger (the dyes we had offered previously were on the small side, as large dye transfers are expensive to make). These prints are all on 17x22-inch paper with a minimum one-inch white border. They are Epson 3880 Ultrachrome prints on Ilford Galerie Gold Fibre Silk paper. Ctein, of course, is making all the prints, and they're signed and titled on the front in ink and signed and dated on the back in graphite.

To order: If you'd like to order one or more of these prints, first, go to the sale page [*Link removed—sale ended 12 noon CST Friday, September 2, 2011*], and send Ctein an email following his instructions. Prices including any taxes or shipping charges are given on the PayPal buttons; you'll use those buttons to determine your price even if you're not paying by PayPal (we'd actually prefer payment by check, but either way is fine). Please note that a payment without an email will not work to reserve you a print; as he explains on the sale page, the email is the essential record he needs in order to reserve a print for you.

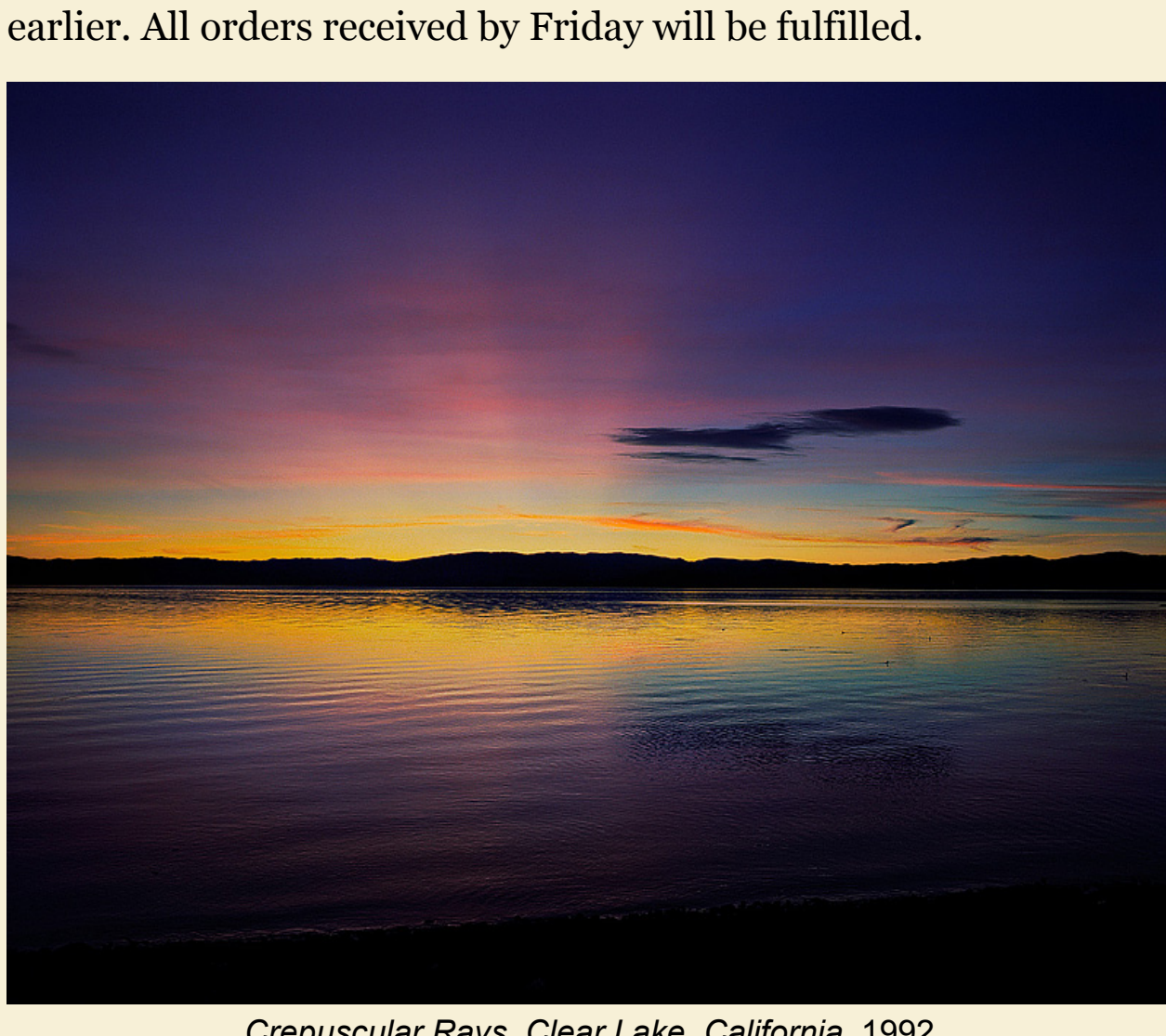
Shipping: Shipping charges and applicable taxes are *included* in the prices. All print will be shipped within 31 days, and are guaranteed/insured by us; if you don't like a print or if your prints are damaged in transit (or never arrive), don't worry: you're covered. We'll refund your purchase price if you don't want to keep the print, or send you a replacement print if yours was damaged or lost.

There's no number limit on this sale. All orders made before Friday at noon will be honored. The first orders will start shipping a week from tomorrow at the latest.

The anti-art-gallery: TOP print sales are democratic, meant to provide high-quality original work for prices that are far less than you could get them for otherwise. The way we do this is simply to collect the orders and the money in advance and then fulfill the orders afterward. This allows the photographer to "mass produce" the production of the prints knowing that each one is already sold. So even though the price is much less to you than you'd pay for a single print purchased individually through a conventional gallery, the photographer still makes a nice profit on the proceedings (TOP takes 20% for hosting the sale; the rest, the other 80%, goes to the photographer. Compare this to the 50-50 or, worse, 40-60 split commonplace with bricks-and-mortar galleries).

For real: But what that means (which you also might know from our previous sales) is that when we say we're closing the sale, we really have to. On Friday at noon, we'll have a final number, and Ctein will order materials and begin work on fulfillment. As you know if you've ever made and shipped large number of prints yourself, that work is arduous and immersive, and needs to be planned. So if you're coming here for the first time from an astronomy, space enthusiast, or science fiction site or forum, please don't assume that we'll make an exception for you if you miss the Friday deadline—we can't, and don't.

At least there's no number limit for this sale, as I mentioned earlier. All orders received by Friday will be fulfilled.



Crepuscular Rays, Clear Lake, California, 1992

Art collectors without limousines: One of the most rewarding things about our sales is how many people say that our prints are the first original artwork they've ever bought. Art collectors aren't just people who keep their limousines idling in the street outside a Christie's evening auction, where the bid increments are more than most blue-collar workers will earn over the course of a lifetime. No, our sales ain't haughty, snooty, or exclusive/exclusionary. But we like that about 'em.

"Crepuscular Rays" is one of my four or five personal favorites from Ctein's dye transfer portfolio. I first used it to illustrate a column way back in my Luminous-Landscape days, and it *almost* became a cover of *Photo Techniques* magazine once upon a time. We'll have more to say about its odyssey to digital inkjet form on, I think, Thursday.

Questions? If you have any questions about any of this, please ask in the comments, and one of us will answer.

One last time, here's the link to the Print Offer page [*Link removed—sale ended 12 noon CST Friday, September 2, 2011*]. Please do us a favor and tell your friends about the sale! And, as ever, thanks to one and all.

Mike

ADDENDUM: A few people have reported problems sending email directly to Ctein at ctein@pobox.com, via the mail link on the order page. If your order email bounces or is reported as nondeliverable, please resend it using this email address: ctein@att.net

Posted on Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 12:02 PM in Ctein, Print Offers | Permalink

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Comments

What shipping method will you use?

Posted by: Jay Tunkel | Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 02:59 PM

Dear Jay,

As it says on the sales page, all prints are shipped via Priority Mail. 99% of the time, it's proven itself to be both speedy and reliable on both domestic and international shipments. It's why I feel comfortable self-insuring.

pax / Ctein

Posted by: ctein | Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 03:49 PM

Wow... what a collection. I'm guessing the "Apollo/Soyuz" print will be the runaway bestseller, but the "Cinder Cone North Trail" just grabs me in a way the other images should be envious of.

Heck, now I'm uncertain there are other images in the sale...

Posted by: MarkB | Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 06:35 PM

Maybe I'm just missing it in the post somewhere, but what printer/ink/media combination has Ctein chosen for this offering? Inkjet leaves a lot of options!

Posted by: MHMG | Monday, 29 August 2011 at 12:07 AM

Dear MHMG,

Err, yer right.

Epson 3880 printer, Ultrachrome VM inkset, Ilford Galerie Gold Fibre Silk paper.

That info's now incorporated into the main article.

pax / Ctein

Posted by: ctein | Monday, 29 August 2011 at 12:49 PM

Small world: I walked up that Cinder Cone two weeks ago. It's in the midst of an area fascinating for varied volcanic geology, and quite eye-catching here with a layer of snow, too (absent in August). Excellent view of Lassen's east slope from the top.

Posted by: Rick D | Tuesday, 30 August 2011 at 01:07 PM

Dear Rick,

I walked up it, too. My housemate, Paula, (former geologist and rock climber) convinced me to. Never again!

But I did get some great photos at the top. Here's one:

<http://ctcin.com/framed.htm>

pax / ground-huggin' Ctein

Posted by: ctein | Tuesday, 30 August 2011 at 11:48 PM

My Swamp with Lilypads print just arrived. A gorgeous print. Many thanks to you and Ctein, Mike, for organising this.

Posted by: Lynn | Wednesday, 21 September 2011 at 02:19 AM

The comments to this entry are closed.

PORTALS

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SEARCH



WWW
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Google Search

CATEGORIES

Around the Web (220)

Baker's Dozen (50)

Blog Notes (564)

Bon Mots (10)

Book of the Week (15)

Books (521)

Camera Reviews (138)

Cameras, new (779)

Cameras, old (285)

Carl Weese (23)

Collecting (53)

Computers (91)

Ctein (370)

Digital Techniques (72)

Eamon Hickey (2)

Editing and Portfolios (75)

Exhibits (84)

Film and Darkroom (127)

Followups (147)

From the Archives (38)

Geoff Wittig (2)

Gordon Lewis (15)

Interviews (7)

Jim Hughes (31)

John Camp (8)

John Kennerdell (17)

Ken Tanaka (11)

Kirk Tuck (8)

Legal and social issues (112)

Lenses (316)

Mini-Portfolios (5)

Morning Coffee (32)

Music Notes (106)

News and Occasions (474)

Obituaries (81)

Off-topic posts (490)

Open Mike (337)

Oren Grad (1)

Past Blasts (23)

Peter Turnley (66)

Photo equipment (343)

Photo industry (169)

Photo-tech (221)

Photographers, current (240)

Photographers, historical (163)

Photographic aesthetics (219)

Photography businesses (26)

Photojournalism (85)

Polls (16)

Print Offers (261)

Printers and Printing (169)

Quote o' the Day (95)

Random Excellence (246)

Random Snaps (123)

Reader Prints (7)

Recommended Cameras (14)

Reflections (198)

Reruns (24)

Roger Overall (2)

Sarge (1)

Satire Alert! (25)

Shooting Skills and Camera Handling (6)

Shooting techniques (157)

Software (75)

Sunday Support Group (73)

TOP contests (6)

TOP's Own Books (10)

Visual Culture (270)

Websites and links (141)

Weekend Exercises (5)

Workshops (19)

Your Turn (9)

ARCHIVES
December 2023
November 2023
October 2023
September 2023
August 2023
July 2023
June 2023
May 2023
April 2023
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More...