

Out West and Outback**Photographs of prehistoric rock art from America and Australia****Leon Yost**, photographer

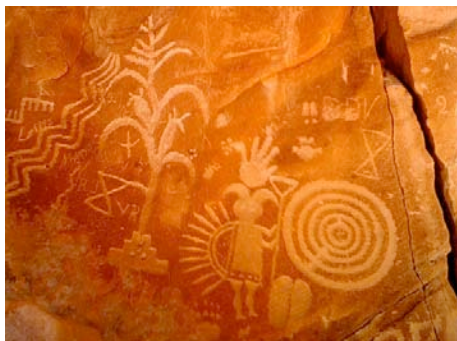
February 17–March 14, 2009

Reception: Saturday, February 21, 4–6 pm

Documentary photographer, Leon Yost has spent 30 years photographing prehistoric rock art in both America and Australia. These photographs record ancient images engraved and painted by tribal shamans at powerful sacred sites on these two continents half a world apart. Painted with a purpose—to heal, to protect, and to bring fertility—the images are freshly original, devoid of influences of western artistic traditions.

Although the tribal images on these continents have functional similarities, they are rendered in contrasting styles—the flatly graphic frontal Australian women are typically depicted with side protruding greatly oversized breasts while the Native American males are typically rendered with much enlarged phalluses pointing downwards. Regional characteristics are apparent, such as the northern Australian x-ray style of rendering that simultaneously reveals both internal and external features. Some sites reflect repeated visits over thousands of years, evidenced by rocks polished through incessant contact or hollowed out by the harvesting of sacred substance. Such ceremonial rituals were performed to acquire powers contained within the images.

Yost is a professional documentary photographer who has worked as a location scout for the BBC and is published in *Time-Life Books*, *American Photo*, *The New York Times* and many other publications. This is Yost's 29th solo photographic exhibition. Prior exhibitions include the Northern Arizona University Art Museum and the San Diego Museum of Man.



Navajo petroglyphs, northwestern NM, USA



Pictographs, Queensland and Northern Territory, Australia



Gallery Hours: Tues–Sat, 11–6

For digital files, please e-mail: ermaleon@gmail.com

Contact: Leon Yost, 201.320.1556