

WIN: US\$35,000 Worth of Prizes. See Page 58

www.asiandiver.com

# AsianDiver

ASIA'S #1 DIVING MAGAZINE

October/November 2004

## A Shark Tale

A Town's Love Affair  
with Whale Sharks

Digital Doctoring  
Fixing Flawed Photos

Teking the Next Step  
Are You Ready for Tek?

# desert storm

Sharks, Wrecks and  
History in the Sudan



AUSTRALIA A\$7.60 • BRUNEI B\$7 • GUAM US\$5.50 • HONG KONG HK\$48 • INDONESIA Rp40,000 • KOREA Won6,000 • KUWAIT Dinar1.50 • MALAYSIA M\$14 • MALDIVES MR125  
MAURITIUS Rup90 • NEW ZEALAND NZ\$7.50 • PHILIPPINES P150 • PNG K6.90 • SAUDI ARABIA SR25 • SINGAPORE S\$7.00 • TAIWAN NT\$140 • THAILAND Bht195



Once in a blue moon a groundbreaking book comes along that pushes the envelope, distinguishing itself with a new style, theme or subject. Todd Essick's *Beginnings – Goddesses, Sirens and Mermaids* achieves all three, marrying what is obviously a rich appreciation for fine art with a keen eye for what makes great photography truly breathtaking.

Part of an ongoing project, *Beginnings* is Essick's attempt to show the connection we all share with the ocean, and is actually a collection of limited edition fine art prints. Under ideal conditions, underwater photography is difficult enough to master; but the former AP photojournalist handles it with ease, taking his vision one step further by uniting "the grace and beauty of the sea with" the form of the naked female body. Before you protest, *Beginnings* is more than just nude photography with a sprinkling of water. These richly provocative photos reveal the pure, subtle curves of the human

body harmoniously juxtaposed with the magnificent bends and bows of the underwater world.

Essick demonstrates mankind's bond with the oceans, and he does so without the aid of Photoshop. Seen with an open mind, *Beginnings* is a stunning visual masterpiece, an artistic tour de force that both men and women will appreciate. Our only hope is that this truly is only the beginning. (And yes, guys, he has already hired camera sherpas and safety divers for his next shoot.)

Available at [www.asiandiver.com](http://www.asiandiver.com), [www.essickphoto.com](http://www.essickphoto.com), and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)