

CAROL BECKWITH AND ANGELA FISHER PUBLISH THEIR FINEST ICONIC IMAGES IN “PAINTED BODIES”

**“NO STRANGERS: ANCIENT WISDOM IN A MODERN WORLD” OPENS AT THE
ANNENBERG SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY NOVEMBER 17, LOS ANGELES**

The photographers and authors of “Painted Bodies: African Body Painting, Tattoos, and Scarification,” recently published by Rizzoli, **Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher**, are in the USA for their lectures on African ceremonies and painted bodies. The **Nat Geo Live Lecture series** continues around the country — [Chicago](#), [Phoenix](#), and [D.C.](#) — before they talk at the **Beverly Hills Forum** on October 29th (see [flyer](#) for ticket information) and the [Bowers Museum](#) in Santa Ana, CA on November 3rd.

On November 17th, the exhibit [“no strangers: ancient wisdom in a modern world”](#) opens at the **Annenberg Space for Photography** in Century City. This will be a unique and exciting exhibit curated by Wade Davis that will showcase, amongst other photographers, many of Carol and Angela’s unique photographs and films taken in Africa over 30 years. This is their first major exhibition in Los Angeles. www.annenberg.spaceforphotography.org

Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher’s prints are available to order from:
CarolBeckwith-AngelaFisher.com

See [African Ceremonies](#) for further details of Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher’s events.

[Approved Press Images with Captions](#) | [African Ceremonies Website](#)

“Painted Bodies: African Body Painting, Tattoos, and Scarification” is a stunning book that features extraordinary photographs of enduring cultures. This is Beckwith and Fisher’s fifteenth book of ceremonies and body painting of the African people. “One of the most beautiful books I have ever seen,” writes author Alex Shoumatoff.

National Geographic Live presentations at the Broad Stage, Santa Monica (Oct. 18); Goodman Theatre, Chicago (Oct. 22); Mesa Arts Center, Phoenix (Oct. 24); and National Geographic headquarters, Washington, D.C. (Nov. 8) will celebrate the publication of “Painted Bodies” this fall. Other lectures will be at the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA, and the Annenberg Space for Photography in conjunction with the “No Strangers” exhibit, curated by Wade Davis, at the Annenberg Space for Photography - November 17, 2012 to February 24, 2013.

Angela Fisher and Carol Beckwith's extraordinary photographic expeditions take them to photograph and film ceremonies in remote parts of Africa. In June 2012, Carol and Angela journeyed by boat up **Lake Turkana in Kenya to the Omo River Delta** to visit the **Dassanech**, one of the most remote tribes in Ethiopia. They photographed the once-every-three-year Dimi Ceremony during which hundreds of men enter elderhood and their daughters are blessed for marriage and motherhood. A journey back in time, the Dassanech still perform this age-old ceremony wearing black ostrich feather headdresses, leopard skins and colobus monkey capes. By night, Angela and Carol followed the men in dugout canoes hunting crocodiles.

In January 2012, with careful planning and connections, they visited remote places in **Ethiopia**,

Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher on travels in Ethiopia, 2012



Clockwise from top left: Angela Fisher and Carol Beckwith with Mursi woman, Southwest Ethiopia; Angela and Carol crocodile hunting with the Dassanech, Southwest Ethiopia; Dr. Donald Johanson with Angela and Carol at the site where Johanson found "Lucy," Hadar, Ethiopia; Angela and Carol in the Danakil Desert, Ethiopia.



Angela Fisher



Carol Beckwith

focusing on the peoples of the Omo River Valley. The year before they photographed the **Royal Kuba Kingdom** as guests of the Royal family in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. This little visited Kingdom is renowned for its exquisite raffia textiles, traditional palace and magnificent costumes worn during rituals in the Royal Court.

Carol Beckwith and **Angela Fisher**, the photographers of African ceremonies, met in Kenya thirty-five years ago. Their unique acclaimed images covering 150 African cultures were made on journeys of 270,000 miles throughout the African continent. As young female explorers, they saw Africa through the eyes of the people they lived with, photographing each group meticulously, from their body adornment to their ritual passages through life. Each image tells a story of the lives of the men, women and children within the vibrant traditions of these cultures.

Their extraordinary photographs are recorded in fourteen best-selling books and in their films. Their new book "**Painted Bodies**" (due 2012) follows "**Maasai**" (1980), "**Nomads of Niger**" (1983), "**Africa Adorned**" (1984), "**African Ark**" (1990), "**African Ceremonies**" (1999), "**Passages**" (2000), "**Faces of Africa**" (2004), "**Lamu: Kenya's Enchanted Island**" (2009), and "**Dinka**" (2010). The special limited-edition books, hand printed in Santiago, Chile, are titled "**Surma**," "**Karo**," "**Maasai**," and "**Dinka**."

"**African Ceremonies**," their defining body of work published twelve years ago, is a double volume that sold close to one hundred thousand copies. It is a pan-African study of rituals and rites of passage from birth to death, covering 93 ceremonies from 26 countries. This book won the **United Nations Award for Excellence** for "vision and understanding of the role of cultural traditions in the pursuit of world peace."

Honored twice with the **Annisfield-Wolf Book Award** in race relations for "outstanding contributions to the understanding of cultural diversity and prejudice," Angela and Carol are also winners of the Royal Geographical Society of London's **Cherry Kearton Medal** for their contribution to the photographic recording of African ethnography and ritual.

The photographers have made four films about traditional Africa, including **Way of the**

Wodaabe (1986), The Painter and the Fighter, and two programs for the Millennium Series **Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World**. Numerous exhibitions of their photography and films have been shown in museums and galleries around the world. In 2000 their **Passages** exhibition opened at the Brooklyn Museum of Art featuring 97 mural photographs, six video films and a selection of African masks, sculpture and jewelry. This exhibition travelled to seven museums on three continents.

“**Beckwith and Fisher** have done more than anyone to awaken the world’s appreciation of everything African, from adornment to the rapidly vanishing ceremonies,” says **Peter C. Keller PHD, President of the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana**.

In the words of **Dr. Donald Johanson, Director, Institute of Human Origins**, “**Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher** are not only truly remarkable photographers, but their dedication to preserving for all time the dazzling diversity of African ceremonies is unparalleled. Their celebrations of African cultures will forever serve as the most compelling and passionate portrayal of the splendor of human creativity from the very continent that gave rise to all humanity.”



Karo Courtship Dancers, Ethiopia



Each dot on this map represents an indigenous culture that Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher photographed and observed for "Painted Bodies."

Contact amanda@c4global.com for the original high-res images for publication.

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