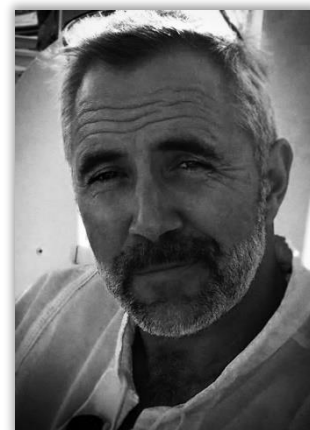


Ben Winkler – Fine Art Photographer, Member PPA

"I was irresistibly and infinitely drawn to the art of photography as a toddler. My father's influence was the beginning; he had a camera and I, fascinated with its buttons and aperture rings, found my way into the camera with a screwdriver, much to his dismay. Wisely he got me my very own Kodak, and I was gleefully taking photos by the age of seven.

Renowned German-Australian photographer Helmut Newton was a profound force on my desire to create photographic art. As a boy I was often captivated by his and the work of David Bailey and other artists featured in photography magazines. By the age of thirteen it was my grandfather who mentored me. He was a self-taught photographer; a quiet man who spoke more by what he showed me than with words of formal instruction. Ensnared in his darkroom in Vienna I reveled in the old world art of making photos. Collectively these experiences ignited a fire in me to 'see' things—people, places and objects—in a unique way, not just with my eyes but with my heart; and then with this vision, to capture them, and to watch as they came to life, floating, suspended in liquid, in order to commemorate each moment in time. As a young man photography to me felt magical. After exploring many creative endeavors, both professional and recreational, I was drawn back to it as a way to express myself as an artist. Here, decades later, it calls me in a way that feels passionate, nourishing, spiritual. My photography nurtures me and I seek to honor it by responding in kind.



"The art of professional photography allows me the fulfillment of giving something transformative—both for me as an artist *and* for the collector. As my vision has metamorphosed, I have come to focus on reflecting how and what I see through series of large-format Seascapes, Cityscapes, and Bodyscapes. In high-contrast black and white or my vividly colored painting with light I seek to create that which causes a reaction. I want those who view it to feel, to relate, to be inspired on some level. Evoking emotion is the *why* of my art. It is engrained in an artist's heart to give. My art, seizing cherished moments and places in time, is what I present to you. My canvas is the world in front of my lens. And I am grateful and humbled to simply say of my photography and my life, 'I am an artist.'" — Ben Winkler

More about Ben Winkler Photography

The road here to the present of *Ben Winkler Photography* is etched with Ben's contrastive life experiences, cultivated studies and meandering world travels. Born and raised in lakeside of Zell am See in Austria, Ben was raised immersed in European culture. The arts were as prominent as the Nordic sports and he embraced culture, history and traditions as riches. A curious old soul, throughout his life he has sought to use his hands to express his heart. From wood carving to stone sculpting to drawing he has explored myriad art forms to articulate what he sees in the world. It is his photography that he says "reflects what his heart sees."

Steeped in the culture of learning, Ben embraced his formal education which included the studies of architecture, interior design, construction engineering, business management and digital architecture, netting him five degrees. Five is also the number of languages in which he is fluent. It is this innate drive to learn and discover that sustains him in a place of joy. His photography course work has been ongoing throughout much of his life.

A highly sensitized sense of style comes from his informal education as a sojourner. Ben's travels have been extensive. He has been a guest—for days and sometimes years—throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. A solo motorbike adventure once drew him across three continents. His appetite for world experiences is hearty. Embracing small rustic villages along with cosmopolitan cities throughout the world has given him a balanced palate for both the provincial and the sophisticated. This carries over into his photography; his travels have been an integral part of forming the way he sees his subjects.

His career path has a broad wing span. A military career as part of a United Nations Peacekeeping Force earned him a shared Noble Peace Prize. Professionally he has made a name as an architect at a distinguished "worldwide top ten firm," as an interior designer while living in Israel, as a craftsman of design/build fine carpentry, both in Austria and in the U.S. and a connoisseur of humanity as a bartender on an island in Greece. Yet, Ben's photography is the art that has fed his spirit most. A culmination of the achievements in his career path—especially his years as an architect—and the countless skills he honed were all the stepping stones to this place in his career as a photographer.

His primary photography genres are multi-faceted. As a European in habit and in taste Ben's work is distinguished by a cultivated eye and old-world taste. His portraiture is infused with authenticity. His editing, minimal. The results; real and reminiscent of another gentler era. Notable clients include Phil Collins and son Nicholas, Ramiro Britto and Alejandro Sanz. It is his "50+ portraiture" he embraces most. He muses that it is, "A testimony to the mature feminine, full of grace and poise," and "Through my lens I see it as a conscious transition of beauty, the grand phase of your life."

As a former architect he is naturally drawn to the art of architectural photography. Ben's European aesthetic is prevalent and perceivable. He has been chosen to photograph the *Boca Raton Resort & Club, Pier 66 and Bahia Mar* in Ft Lauderdale, country clubs in Naples, and several commercial properties in Miami Beach including projects for the renowned architectural firm, *Arquitectura*. Ben travels the eastern seaboard for requested residential property location shoots from the Florida Keys to Palm Beach to Park Avenue and The Hamptons in New York. His product work is represented in magazines and online by the *LuvTia Jewelry Collection*, which premiered on the QVC channel in August, 2016.

As an avid mariner he takes great pleasure in yachting photography. Notable shoots include Miami's *Coral Reef Yacht Club*, the *Moths US Nationals*, along with local regattas' shoots in the Florida Keys and the US Virgin Islands.

Today Ben Winkler keeps his primary studio in Boca Raton Florida and a summer studio in Manhattan. He makes his home in the Florida Keys, a sub-tropical island chain with an abundance of natural beauty awaiting his lens, and a water paradise where he can indulge his zeal for sailing.

For commissions, scheduling and exhibit inquiries please contact Ben Winkler Photography at 323.942.9177 or email: ben@benwinkler.com