

A pair of owls stare intensely from inside a narrow slot canyon carved by flash floods, Zion National Park; Coast Redwoods, the tallest trees on earth, reach for the night sky in the Stout Grove, Redwood National Park. Photos by QT Luong

# Luong of Evergreen first photographer to capture all 59 National Parks with large format camera

#### By William Bellou Publisher

hotographer QT Luong of Evergreen Valley has accomplished something truly remarkable.

Luong is the first person to photograph all 59 national parks with a large format film camera. The project spanned 23 years, during which QT made more than 300 park visits. In 2009, Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan featured Luong in the film "The National



nothingbundtcakes.com

Parks: America's Best Idea."

Not only did Luong visit each of the 59 national parks, returning multiple times in different seasons to catch the varying moods of the land, he also photographed each significant area of each park, revealing lesser known, quieter, and off the beaten path locations.

Luong also experienced the diversified life-zones represented by the incredible range of parks and ecosystems: From climbing to the top of the coldest mountain on Earth (Denali) to div-

ing under the tropical seas of the Atlantic Ocean (Virgin Islands), he chose the best images that capture the amazing, vast, wild and majestic landscapes the world has to offer. The result is a unique and remarkable assemblage that captures the most fascinating and impressive landscapes of each park.

Photography exhibit on display For the first time, Evergreen res-



In 2012, QT Luong visited each of the (then) 58 National Parks and became the first photographer to capture their beauty with a large format camera. Photo by Buddy Squires

"Luong's revelatory photographs suggest that our ordinary equipment for seeing is missing something. Luong offers us a leg up to a new way of understanding Nature's greatest gift."

> - Ken Burns, director and co-producer of The National Parks: America's Best Idea

idents have the opportunity to view Luong's traveling photo exhibit of each the 59 US national parks. The exhibit returns home from its national tour that included venues such as the Museum of Science, Boston. It has been seen by hundreds of thousands across the country.

The exhibit is on display now through June 20 at the Art Ark Gallery in San Jose. An "Artist Talk" will be presented on Wednesday, June 14 at 7 p.m. During the events, Luong will sign his new book Treasured Lands: A

Photographic Odyssey Through America's National Parks, which won four different national book awards during the last few months.

**Treasured Lands book released** Treasured Lands was released in the fall of 2016, the year when the National Park Service celebrated its centennial birthday. With his unparalleled decades of natural photography and research See PHOTOGRAPHER, page 18 resource tables for seniors and a walk around Eastridge Mall to promote health for seniors.

The event is sponsored by San Jose Councilmember Sylvia Arenas and Senator Jim Beall.

Location: Eastridge Mall, 2200 Eastridge Loop, San Jose, CA 95122.



A classic Ford pickup

#### **Classic Car Show Culture revived** at Evergreen **Community College**

By Frank Shortt Times staff writer

revival of Car Shows at Evergreen Community College was held on Sunday, May 21.

This event was also a phoenix for Car Show icon, Roger Cevallos.

Classic Cars can be fascinating, but also a time consuming hobby. Hours are spent proving loving care and restoration on their favorite See CAR SHOW, page 3

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Times Feature

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> Show Dates: July 21-23, 2017 Performance Location: Santa Clara Convention Center 5001 Great America Pkwy Santa Clara, CA 95054





Molten lava pours into the ocean, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; Old Faithful Geyser erupts on a quiet, moonlit winter night. Yellowstone National Park.

### Photographer

Continued from page 1 expertise, Luong shares both exceptional photography and practical insights into the finest, remarkable natural wonders and landscapes that can only be found in the national parks. He's traveled the country, bringing awareness to the most unusual and spectacular creations made by nature and, inspiring others to enjoy those treasures as well.

The stunning, remarkable coffee-table book has won four national awards: Independent Publisher Book Award ("IPPY") -Coffee Table Books Gold Medal; IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards -Arts and Photography Gold Medal; Nautilus Book Awards -Photography and Arts Silver Winner and National Indie Excellence Awards - Photography Winner.

"Tm particularly pleased with this chance to engage with my local community, since I have lived in the Bay Area since 1993 and in Evergreen Valley since 2002, said Luong "Because of history and the proximity to many of them, national parks have long been important to the local community. The Yosemite Grant of 1864 was the first time any nation had set aside a large tract of natural land for all people and for all time, and it would pave the way for all national parks."

Nine National Parks in California Currently, California has nine National Parks which is more than any other state, and the most recent, Pinnacles National Park, is located only one hour and a half away from Evergreen.

"Although last year's National Park Service Centennial was an occasion for celebration, this year is a time of concern, as America's public lands have become a topic in the nation's political conversation," said Luong. "In the footsteps of Carleton Watkins and Ansel Adams, I view my work as a muchneeded reminder of the beauty, lasting value, and importance of our treasured lands."

#### About QT Luong

Twenty years ago QT Luong, a Berkeley, California scientist and budding photographer embarked on an extraordinary journey. With highly specialized professional expertise in artificial intelligence and image processing, his goal was to capture the incredible beauty and splendor of the parks in the highest quality and largest format



Times Feature



Grinnel Glacier, one of the 25 remaining glaciers in the park, is melting into a lake. Glacier National Park; Sea stacks are a testament to the corrosive forces of the relentless surf. Olympic National Park.

possible. The result is his awardwinning book, Treasured Lands, A Photographic Odyssey Through America's National Parks, which is the most comprehensive work on all 59 US National Parks. This remarkable collection of exquisite photographs reveals some of the greatest wildland treasures in the United States, with an innovative information section for photographers and visitors who wish to personally experience these natural wonders.

Born to Vietnamese parents in Paris, France, he was trained as a scientist (PhD U. Paris). The revelation of the high Alps led him to become a mountain climber and

wilderness guide. When he came to the US to conduct research in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Image Processing for what was to be a short stay, he chose UC Berkeley, because of the proximity to Yosemite-a world class rock climbing destination. There, he fell in love with the National Parks and decided to photograph all of them with a  $5 \times 7$  large format camera, a single-handed, self-financed, monumental project that had not been completed by anyone before. He settled in the San Francisco Bay Area and started crisscrossing this country to capture its diverse beauty. QT's in-depth coverage of



Self-portrait in the badlands is subject to faster erosion than any other landscapes on Earth. Badlands National Park.

the Parks often dictated long hikes into the backcountry, with a 75 lb backpack, and only his passion and dedication to keep him company.

By 2002, he had visited each of the (then) 58 National Parks. He subsequently left his distinguished career as a scientist to work as a full-time photographer. In 2009, Ken Burns featured him as one of the few living characters in his film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea".

His photographs have been the subject of two coffee-table books, and have appeared in several publications from National Geograph-

ic, Time, Life, Outside, Scientific American, GEO, and many others in dozens of countries around the world. His work has been profiled in publications such as Outdoor Photographer, View Camera, Rangefinder, National Geographic Explorer, Parks Magazine, and has been seen in galleries and museum exhibitions on both coasts.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information: artarkgallery.com

For more information, visit: treasuredlandsbook.com

QT Luong shares his work and adventures at terragalleria.com.





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