

LOVE STREET  
AND  
CYCLOPS PRESS

PRESENT

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOS BY

JOHN OGDEN

1972 – 1980

BALI BOOK TALK & EXHIBITION  
LOVE STREET STORE

STATEMENT

On my first trip to Bali (June-August 1972) I had to leave Australia quietly as I was resisting National Service. I slipped out of the country in a light aircraft to what was then Portuguese Timor before travelling overland to Kupang and then island hopping through Sumba, Sumbawa, Flores and Lombok before arriving in Bali. Few Balinese entered the ocean due to cultural taboos, and there were only a handful of foreigners to go surfing with on the island. Mostly American, they included Abdul, Mike Boyum, Bob Laverty, Mike Ritter, Bob Jones and Richard Marsh. At this time, I could not afford to own a 35mm SLR camera and only took a few photographs on my Instamatic.

After returning to Australia to finish my National Service commitments, I purchased my first SLR and began to teach myself how to be a photographer. Over the following years I returned to Indonesia several times in between doing seasonal work tuna fishing in South Australia. During 1975, towards the end of the Vietnam War, I began working as a photojournalist in S.E. Asia, documenting the war in Laos. Later that year, I travelled to the UK to explore the idea of studying filmmaking at the London Film School. Unfortunately, luggage containing my photography portfolio was stolen on arrival at Heathrow airport. Returning to Australia for the revolution that would surely follow the sacking of Gough Whitlam, I then completed a degree in photography, filmmaking, literature and anthropology.

Fast forward to 1980. I had been hired to be the water cameraman on a surf film, tentatively titled *Implosions*. Although I had never filmed from the water before, I quickly agreed. After weeks of uncrowded surf at Padang Padang we headed to Grajagan, where Mike Boyum had established a surf camp on the narrow strip of sand that separated wild jungle from one of the world's best surf locations. This was a new concept and forerunner to surf tourism. *Implosions* was never completed, but some of the photographs and 16mm footage from that expedition would eventually appear in the 2008 documentary, *Sea of Darkness*. This project marked the end of my brief career as a surf filmmaker, and the last of my trips to Indonesia for the next decade or so, as I built a career as a Director of Photography.

It was following a surfing accident in 1988, when I lost me right eye, that I got into publishing. In recent years, between 2019 and 2022, I wrote and published *Waterproof – Australian Surf Photography Since 1958*, and edited and published two books on those early days of surfing in Indonesia: the Stephen Cooney memoir *Unearthed*, and the Jack McCoy/Mike Ritter book *Grajagan – Surfing in the Tiger's Lair*. This exhibition at Love Street will be a great opportunity to discuss these recent publications as well as present some images from early in my early career as a photography.

## LOVE STREET EXHIBITION - SELECTS

Photos by John Ogden 1972-1980

Composite John Ogden passport  
Photo and original visa for 1972



Kuta, 1974

Code:



Cactus, 1974



Body Surfer, Perth, 1977



Surf chaser, Kuta, 1974  
Code: A1975



Uluwatu silhouette, 1980  
Code: 6-353-3a



Padang Padang, 1980



Padang line-up (closer view)  
Code: 28E



Peter McCabe surfing Padang  
Code: 41B



Peter McCabe surfing Padang  
Code: 51B



Rory Russell, Padang, 1980  
Code: 1a#1



Duane Webster, Padang Padang, 1980.  
Code:



Ketut Menda, Padang Padang, 1980.  
Code: 6-361-22



Ketut Menda surfing at Padang  
Code: 6-361-18



Ketut Menda and car  
Code: 6-363-12



Made Kasim, Kuta, 1980  
Code: 6-363-23



I Ketut Jadi, Big Froggy,  
Uluwatu, 1980  
Code: 6-345-19



Code: 6-344-28



I Gede Narmade, Kuta, 1980  
Code: 6-363-6



Gede Narmade, Kuta, 1980  
Code: 6-363-8



Padang Padang, 1980  
Code: 6-351-10



## **GRAJAGAN**

The camp, 1980  
Code: 55C



Bill Murray at G-Land, 1980  
Code:



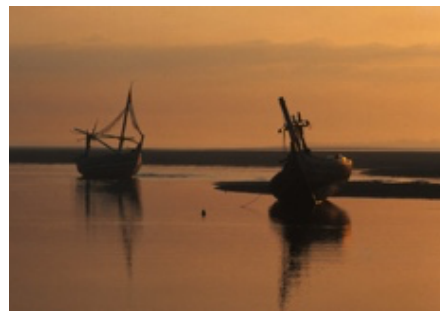
Jim Russi, Bill Murray and Boyum  
at G-Land, 1980.  
Code: 6-355-4&5



Bill Murray at G-Land, 1980  
Code: 67C



G-Land boats  
Grajagan 1980  
Code:



G-Land, 1980  
Code:



G-Land, 1980  
Code:





COLLAGE

