

Malibu Seen



Nature photographer Tom Mangelsen and Bond girl Maud Adams get wild and go green at the opening of the G2 Gallery in Venice. Photo by Mitch Haddad

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WILD THINGS

Famed wildlife photographer Tom Mangelsen was the man of the hour as the new G2 Gallery opened its doors in Venice. At 6,000 square feet, the place is grand, but what's even more impressive is that it's green. VIPs got a sneak peak and a chance to marvel at Magelsen's amazing photos capturing the globe from Africa to the Antarctic.

The gallery, meantime, has been a labor of love for Susan Gottlieb who wants to support environmental appreciation and conservation through art and photography.

"We went to the arctic a year ago and this is the result of that trip," the gallery owner explained with an enormous portrait of king

penguins peering out over her shoulder. "We knew it would change our lives."

Snagging Mangelsen for the first show seemed like a natural choice. "He has this way of getting the most incredible pictures. Those pictures include a salmon jumping right into the jaws of an awaiting brown bear, dancing polar bears on a block of ice and sleepy lions in the Serengeti.

For Magelsen, nature, photography and conservation go hand in hand. "Environment and habitat are so important to the overall scheme of the image," he says. "This is where these animals call home. Without including the artistry of place, the image would not be complete."

In addition to showcasing environmental photography, Susan will be making another kind of contribution. A portion of the gallery sales will go to benefit the Friends of Ballona Wetlands and the Environmental Media Association. "The environment has always been a passion of mine," she says, "and G2 is a dream come true."

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