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COLORADO

the TRAVEL
ISSUE





MICK FLEETWOOD

He's an international music icon who will forever be known as one of the founding members of Fleetwood Mac. Mick Fleetwood has been the band's drummer and the rhythmic pulse of the legendary group since the early 1970s. Yet these days, he's spending more time behind the lens than the drum kit. On this particular evening, he's showing his work at Denver's Fascination Street Art Gallery – a stop on his multi city exhibition.

Fleetwood's foray into photography began with watching his father on family trips. "My father was the 'boring family photographer.' Back in the day, people didn't constantly snap photos and I am so glad that my dad was the exception to that. I had a nice muscle memory of sorts and when I started playing and traveling, it just seemed natural to chronicle what I did. So I became the 'boring band photographer.'" Yet admittedly, Fleetwood's newfound hobby was also inspired by bandmate John McVie. "John actually was and still is a really good photographer in my estimation. He always had a nice camera and I thought, 'He's got one. I think I should get one.' My work with Fleetwood Mac is not as a singer or a writer. I play in the support team. I do a lot of other stuff but it's not personalized like a picture so I actually inadvertently found a way to enjoy sinking or swimming at something."

But how did Fleetwood's work mature and transition into art that people were clamoring for? "Twenty five years ago I started my version of trying to be a little bit artistic and actually going on projects to take walks and see things and go back and take pictures of them. Then someone saw my bits and pieces in Maui where I live and encouraged me to show them in a gallery. I did it and I really enjoyed it and it sort of availed something in me."

What stands out about Fleetwood, other than his instantly recognizable white beard, is his honesty

and candor. With an air of certainty about where his skills lie, Fleetwood knows who he is as an artist, and his photography is no exception. "I never look at myself as a very grand technician. Seeing something and trying to take time to think if it looks like a painting or a picture to me, it starts very simple and ends up being very simple. It allows me to make mistakes slowly with the camera. I have loads of pictures of all sorts of stuff but a lot of them, to me, are more of an accident than actually trying to project some form of thought into it, which is why I think I enjoy doing it."

And as one might expect, there are definite parallels between Fleetwood's music and his photography. "You get some songs where someone says, 'I wrote that in five minutes.' That would be like taking a fantastic picture, say like a little child in Vietnam. It was just a moment. It came out of the ether. The photographer knew what they were doing. I'm not that person. That's attached to being in the moment of playing music. What I do is more like putting an album together. It's taking time to write the songs and guessing the songs, rewriting the songs several times, going back and doing it, looking at different ways to mix it which would be developing the film so you have more time. What is similar is that in the end, no matter what, you hand it over very much to be interpreted."

Following this edict, Fleetwood is organic about the final product and unpretentious about what he creates, "I like the thought that people have their own interpretations. If they like the picture aesthetically and want to know the story behind it, then that's lovely. I'm not beating someone over the head to see it one way or another. I'm very humble. In truth it's a form of being vulnerable. I like the fact that I don't really know what I'm doing so I try as hard as I can with what I have."