

# Ben von Mahler

**2011**

## **Artist's Statement**

Through a combination of photography, acrylics, pastels and specialized media, I focus on the light, shadow and subtle nuances that encompass and illuminate the subject.

Behind each work is the story of the women from whom they were derived. Many are historical figures such as the lascivious Byzantine Empress Theodora or the tragic Morayma, the last Moorish Queen of Spain.

Each story gives greater depth to the image and draws the observer deeper into the work. The combination of artwork and narrative of these women's lives enhances the character of each piece and intensifies the viewer's experience, immersing them in the art work.

My goal is to capture the intense expressions that go into the deepest thoughts and feelings of the subject drawing the viewer into an intimate encounter with the image.

## **Biography**

Ben Mahler was born in Washington D.C., moving first to Maryland and then to California. He received his formal art training at Cal State University Northridge, Otis Parsons and Art Center. His first work was published in 1983 for the travel industry.

Wanting to expand his knowledge of lighting and photography, he joined Playboy Enterprises Inc. He set up the lighting for some of the best photographers in the world. The techniques he learned there along with others he created have been used in his photographic career to enhance his images and add a sophisticated feel to his work.

He began his career as a corporate photographer but preferred to work more spontaneously and transitioned to the fashion industry. His work has been used in print publications and websites.

He branched out to website development and created a website for women's apparel. As a result of the emphasis on Italian apparel featured on the website, in 2001 he was invited to the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas to photograph an Italian apparel collection in their Presidential suite. This was the first anniversary of the Venetian Hotel and numerous stars including Sophia Loren, Robin Leach, Dexter Poindexter, chefs Wolfgang Puck and Emeril Lagasse attended the gala affair. Portions of the shoot featuring Mr. Mahler were aired on Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Channel.

In 2009 Ben began developing his line of artwork. Not satisfied with the two primary printing materials, paper and canvas, he set out to create his own media derived from methods he had learned in numerous art classes and seminars over the years. The customized media would form the perfect background to his creative images.

Ben resides in Thousand Oaks, California.