

# FULL EXPOSURE

*Focusing in on South Florida Photographer Jeremiah Jenner*

**Text** Megan Aquilina **Photos** Jeremiah Jenner

JEREMIAH JENNER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH LIGHT started when he was just five years old. Armed with an instamatic camera, a gift from his mother, he captured a cold February sunrise in Rochester, New York, while waiting for the school bus. "The light was dancing on the ice," Jenner recalls nostalgically. That was his very first photograph.

Since then, Jenner, 43, has spent his life studying the art of photography. As a child growing up in the same town where Eastman Kodak is headquartered, Jenner would frequently visit the camera manufacturer, fascinated by how the magic light-readers worked. His mother Dorothea DeFrank was an accomplished oil painter; Jenner knew then that photography would be his medium.



Jeremiah Jenner at his Starbucks exhibition.

In 1983, he moved to South Florida to study at the Florida Institute of Technology. "I wanted to work with the forces of nature," Jenner, a Coral Springs resident, explains of his attraction to photography. "It's like stalking prey, waiting for the shadows. Everything is always a little different. The light always changes."

Jenner shoots strictly film — as opposed to digital. It's a conviction he admits helps with collectors. But he did trade in the instamatic, and 15 years ago began shooting with a Nikon 4004 (he has had "her" rebuilt twice). He is now trying to focus less on commercial photography — fashion, aerial and corporate. While previous clients include Anheuser-Busch, Holiday Inn and the United Way, he now wants to zoom in on art photography, developing a genre he has coined "Abstract Urbanism."

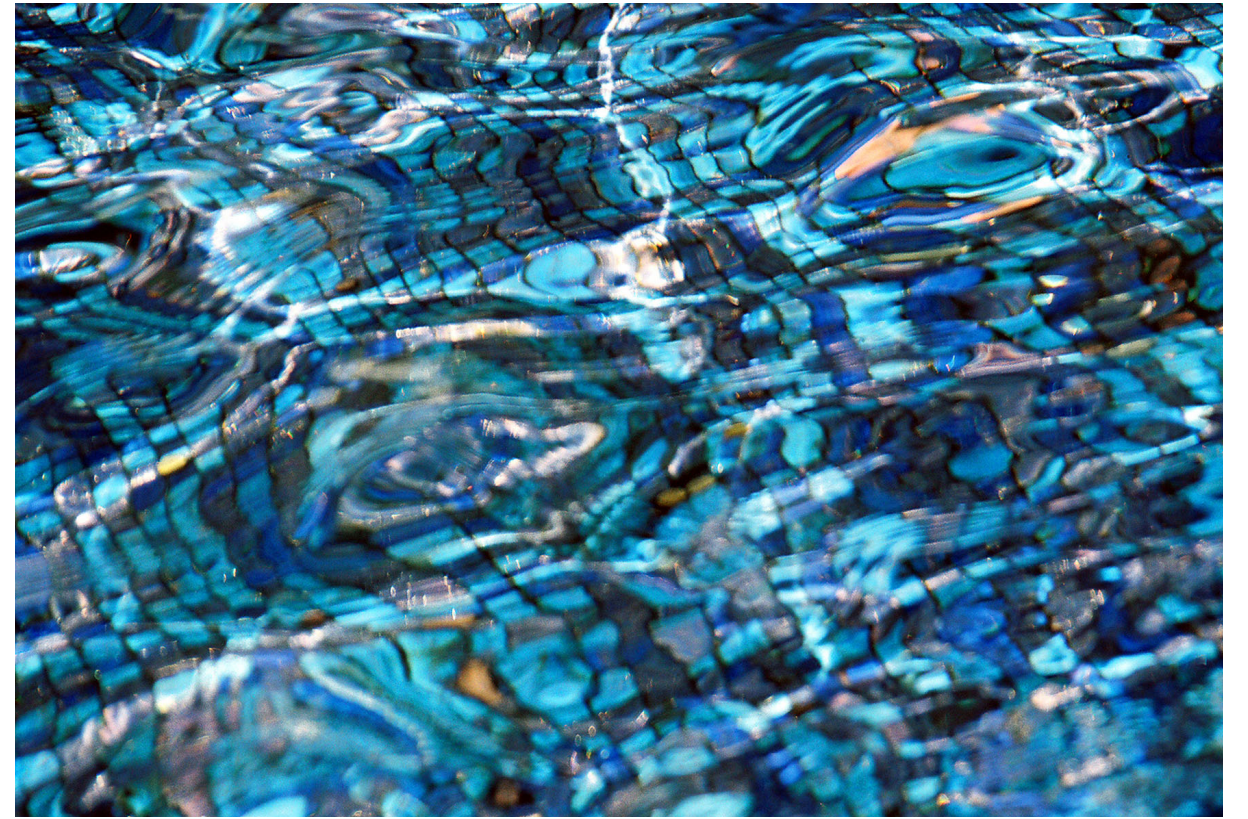
Jenner goes through two to three rolls of film per week — he is partial to Kodak and Fuji — and gives himself daily assignments. "I try to shoot every day," he says. "Some days, I go out and shoot 'orange' or 'traffic' or 'buildings'." By abstracting details — a single drop of water, the motion of a lone Koi in a pond, the blur of an oncoming Metromover — Jenner is challenging the conventional way of seeing, finding a story when things are just out of focus.

"The best compliment someone can give me," Jenner says, "is that they are seeing things in new ways and with new meanings through my photos. I want to make people slow down and look."

People are definitely starting to slow down and look at Jenner's work seriously. He has been featured in several solo and group shows at local venues such as the Red Bar Gallery in Miami, Art Expressions in Wilton Manors and the Coral Springs Museum of Art. His 20-by-30-inch images mounted on museum-grade acrylic are fetching \$1,200 to \$1,500.

As with an inner voice, Jenner follows light in unique ways, patiently letting it reveal his subjects in their own time and on their own terms. So too has his passion for photography exposed itself as something that is just meant to be. "I do photography," he says, "because it is just something I have to do, like destiny." ■

Jeremiah Jenner's photography will be on display at the Lèche-Vitrines Alliance in Fort Lauderdale on March 29. [lechevitrinesart.com](http://lechevitrinesart.com)



Holy Water, 2006



Water Dragon, 2005