

Featured Photographer: Brian Skerry

Brian Skerry figures he's spent more than 10,000 hours underwater in the last 30 years, much of that time with a camera in hand.

From land-locked Uxbridge, MA, where he grew up, the first step in this lifelong journey was a diving show he attended in Boston as a teen.

"I was hooked. I realized what I wanted was to be an ocean explorer with a camera," he recalls.



He began to dream of being a National Geographic photographer and 15 years later, that became a reality. To date, he's done more than 20 feature articles: on **right whales**, **leatherback turtles**, and **"Japan's Ocean Wilderness,"** to name just a few.

As much a journalist as a photographer, Brian has traveled all over the world, photographing in all its oceans. His purpose is always the same, he says, to tell stories that otherwise may not be told.

"When I started, I just wanted to make beautiful pictures," says Skerry. "But over time, I saw the need to tell conservation stories, on subjects like overfishing and vanishing species, things that I didn't think a lot of people understood because so much of what happens is out of sight, below the surface."

Throughout much of his career, Brian has relied on AutumnColor to help him achieve the accurate and engaging colors his photos demand. Prior to going digital in 2005, Brian worked with AutumnColor drum scans of his original chromes. Today, he and AutumnColor do color correction from either RAW files or Tiffs.

"National Geographic is very strict. They don't allow any manipulation of the image, just color correction and contrast," he explains. "I may shoot 40,000 frames for a story. The National Geographic editor and I will go through all of them, to choose perhaps a dozen for the story."

Using Nikon D3's and D3S', he sets his white balance to automatic because conditions are so diverse and changeable from ocean to ocean, minute to minute and differences in depth. "The color, reflection, refraction, scattering, they're all constantly changing." With help from AutumnColor's Mark Doyle - he color corrects his images by eye, from memory. "Mark is my wizard, my Merlin," Brian says.

AutumnColor also prints Brian's fine art prints. "Mark always gets them right," he adds. "It's the personal service that sets AutumnColor apart. It's not only the technical expertise, they know my needs and they deliver the goods. They go out of their way to satisfy."

A frequent lecturer and author of several books, Brian's latest is, "Ocean Soul," scheduled for publication November 15 by National Geographic. It's something of a "mid-career retrospective" as well as a personal story of a kid who fell in love with the sea.



The book is available for [pre-order from Amazon](#). You can also see marvelous examples of Brian's striking photography as well as purchase some of his fine art prints on his website: www.brianskerry.com.

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