



# MASTERS OF THE PRINT

THE WORLD'S BEST PRINTERS REVEAL SOME OF THEIR TECHNIQUES  
AND TIPS FOR MAKING THE PERFECT FINE-ART PRINT. BY HAL STUCKER

## SAÏD NUSEIBEH

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**PRINTS FOR:** A commercial and fine-art photographer himself, Nuseibeh prints exclusively for Ruth Bernhard in San Francisco.

SAÏD NUSEIBEH'S LONG ASSOCIATION with Ruth Bernhard—"She's like a fairy godmother to me," he says—began 14 years ago when the two met at a workshop Nuseibeh was attending in his hometown of San Francisco. "Michael Kenna had been working for her previously," he says, "though his [photography] business had begun to take off and she was looking for a new printer. After we met at the workshop, I later showed her some of my work at the behest of Joe Folberg of Vision

Gallery. Ruth gave me several negatives to print as a test, and that's how we got started."

Known for striking nudes shot in strong lights and darks, Bernhard originally used Agfa Portriga for her pictures or "any other paper that would deliver a warm tone," says Nuseibeh. He says he now prints her work on Ilford Multigrade warm tone, using Dektol developer and giving finished prints a relatively strong selenium toning, with a bath using 1 part toner to 40 parts water.

He says of working with Bernhard, "I feel I'm always allowed to translate, and that as my skills grow and sensitivities deepen, I'm free to apply that to better interpret Ruth's work."

## SID KAPLAN

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**PRINTS FOR:** The exclusive printer for photographer Robert Frank for over 25 years, Kaplan has also printed for the Robert Capa Estate, Cornell Capa and Weegee. Specializes in black and white.

WHEN MAKING A TRULY FINE PRINT, Sid Kaplan says, he sometimes keeps a first attempt on view for several days. "I have two enlargers, so I can take awhile and keep one set up with a negative I'm working on." Kaplan says that when looking at a work in progress over a period of several days, "That's when you seen the things you

Handprints of the masters themselves.

Top row: Teresa Engle Moreno; Marc McClish; Mike Spry; Kylie Wright. Second row: Paul and Max Caffell, and Dominic Burd; Tod Gangler; Dominique Granier. Third row: Pablo Inirio; R. Mac Holbert. Fourth row: Saïd Nuseibeh; Sid Kaplan; Chuck Kelton. This page, upper right corner: Laumont Digital's Esteban Mauchi.