

## Black and White Revival

by Dave Butcher



We have just had the first snows of winter here in the Peak District as I write this from my gallery. Winter is my favourite time of year and it's just signalled its arrival.

I am a fine art photographer working exclusively in black and white. However for many years I worked as a chemist and regulatory affairs specialist for Ilford Photo (the leading manufacturer of black and white films and papers) before leaving 5 years ago to follow my passion for photography. Now with my wife Jan we run a successful fine art photography business selling my hand-printed silver-gelatine photographs and books of my photographs, lecturing, running courses, taking commissions and licensing my images for various purposes from illustration to PR and advertising.

For many years I have been building a picture library that includes landscapes in the UK, Europe and America. A selection has already been included in my 2 books. 'High Light' was published in 2005 and has already been reprinted. 'Peak Light' was published in 2007, being on the Peak District where we have lived and worked for the last 20 years. It contains 90 photographs offering a different perspective on popular places as well as the not-so-familiar. I never cease to be amazed by the natural beauty on my doorstep and 'Peak Light' depicts the place that I live and love.

Apart from the Peak District, I have travelled widely and the UK library includes the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, Snowdonia, West Country and the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Farther afield we have a very large number of shots taken in the French, Swiss, Italian, Austrian and German Alps. The big peaks such as Mont Blanc, Matterhorn and the Eiger are included, as well as many other areas. Colorado landscapes feature strongly with images from most areas across the state including the Rockies, Mesa Verde, Great Sand Dunes, Grand Mesa and Pawnee Buttes. I also have a collection of mountaineering, skiing and snowshoeing pictures since these are the best ways to travel across my workplace – the great outdoors – in winter. There are pictures in all seasons and in all weathers to add variety to the library.

Some of my most popular images are of trees, waterfalls and smaller parts of the landscape. For example, it is a selection of these that have just been used by a fine art publisher, based in Germany, for worldwide distribution through galleries etc.

The other main subject area for me is pictorial architecture of towns and cities, such as London, Cambridge, Paris, Venice, Washington and New York, which are really popular. Black and white can produce striking images of buildings and city scenes, something different to the usual full colour images.

For equipment, I exclusively use Mamiya medium format cameras with Ilford film. This combination is very reliable, even when working at -25C on a 4000 metre peak in the Alps - there is no shortcut to a good shot! This gives me a large negative, either 6 x 6 cm or 6 x 7 cm, to work with to produce the high quality that is needed. This includes the ski mountaineering shots where, even with the physical demands of the activity, I will not compromise on quality. The negatives are then hand-printed in my darkroom to produce the final photograph. This is of course the second creative step in the process; the negative is the starting point. Prints are then scanned to provide image files for publication and licensing.

I have tens of thousands of negatives and regularly add to these, many are as yet unprinted, so please ask if you have something specific in mind.

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peak light



the peak, defined photography of  
**davebutcher**



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*Buttermere and  
Fleetwith Pike*

*Chamonix Aiguilles,  
Winter Sky, France*

*Ettrick Bay Wreck*

*Peak Light front  
cover*

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*Eiffel Tower and  
fountains at night*

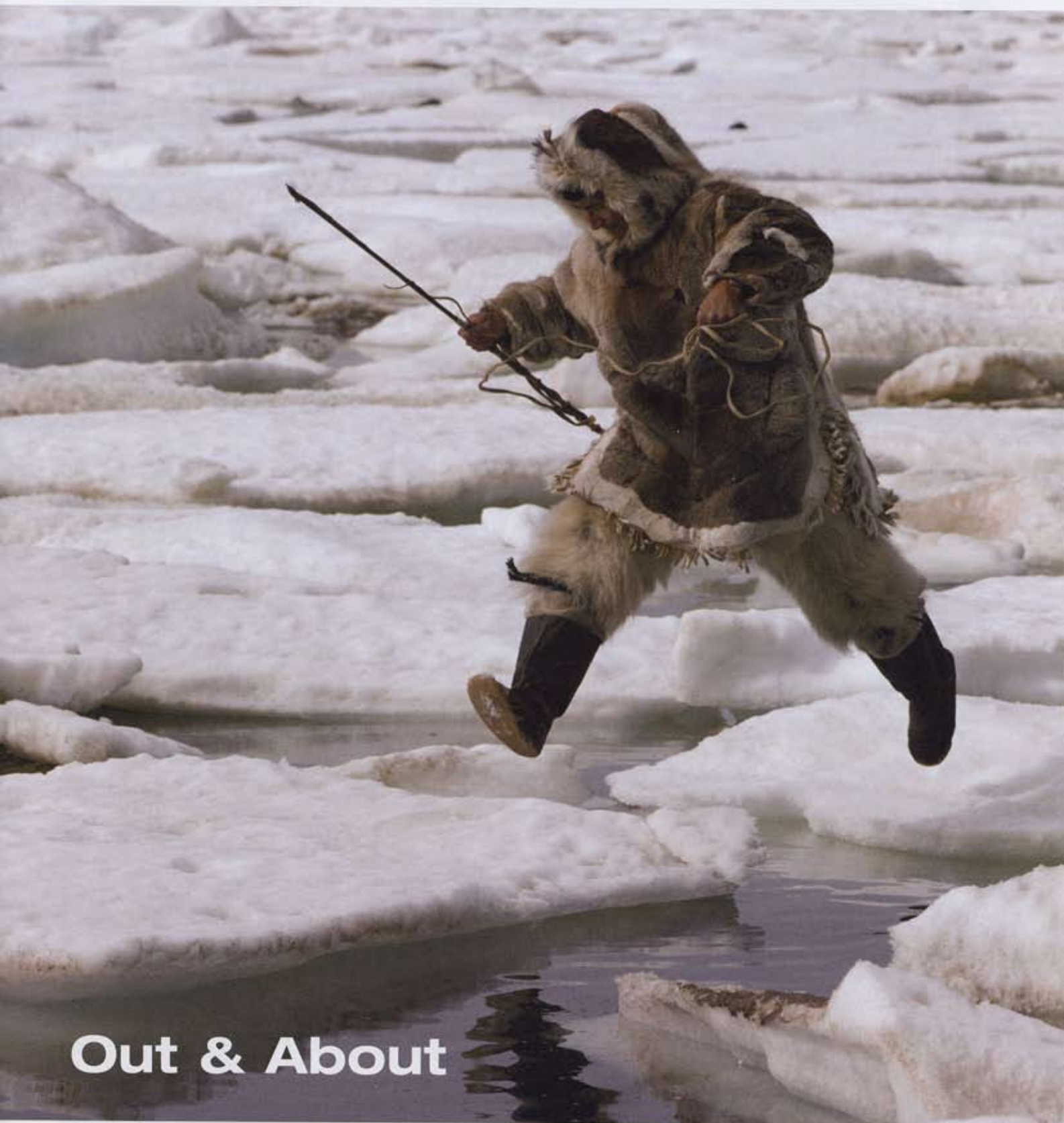
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*Sunrise Ski, Bernese  
Oberland,  
Switzerland*

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# montage

ISSUE 112 · WINTER 2008



## Out & About



THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
PICTURE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION