

# Click

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MAY / JUNE 2015

a PHOTOGRAPHER'S *dream* SEASON

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## VISUAL MEMORY

*Howard Schatz looks back at his illustrious photography career, but for just a moment.*

BY LORNA GENTRY PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOWARD SCHATZ

**MAY MARKS** the publication of an elegant retrospective of the stunning photography of Howard Schatz. Printed in a limited edition, the two-volume boxed set, *Schatz Images: 25 Years (Glitterati)* contains 1,083 color and black-and-white photographs that show the inventive photographer at his best — provocative, surprising, thoughtful and often humorous.

Photography is a second career for the 74-year-old Schatz. He was an ophthalmologist and retinal specialist with a successful medical practice in San Francisco, but on Saturdays he was an avid amateur photographer. He took a leap of faith in his late 40s, put his medical career on hold, and with his wife, Beverly Ornstein, moved to New York, where he opened a 5,000-square-foot studio in SoHo. There he invested his considerable energy in pursuing photographic projects that interested him. Twenty-five years, 32 projects and 20 published books of photography later, Schatz retains his curiosity and *joie de vivre*.





**Click:** How long did you work on this project?

**H.S.:** It took a year. When the publisher came to me about doing a retrospective, initially I said no because I didn't want to look back. I want to look forward, be a little scared, keep looking for wonder and for things I haven't seen. But they kept nudging me. We hired a world-renowned photo editor and he, Beverly and I looked at the 4 million images I'd made over 25 years. Our goal was to find gems. Every image in the book — and there are over 1,000 — we all agreed should be included. After eight months of editing, I then spent four months designing the book.

**Click:** You once said you're a moving target. What do you mean by that?

**H.S.:** I said I was a moving target because when people copied my work,

especially the underwater work, I didn't get upset. I took it as a compliment. As a moving target I want to stay a step ahead and surprise myself. I don't want to make a picture that I've made before or make one that I know exactly what it's going to look like. I want to see things I've never seen, to use light, cameras and lenses in ways that haven't been done before. I want to see the world in ways no one has seen before. I look for things that feel wondrous. In every project I'm like a child. I fall in love with what I'm doing. I get in touch with something deep inside me emotionally that thrills me and pushes me forward in a passionate way to keep looking and exploring. @

To see more of Howard Schatz's work visit [howardschatz.com](http://howardschatz.com); the new anthology is available through Amazon.