



# DREAM SEQUENCE

GRAY MALIN TELLS A TALE OF WHIMSY THROUGH SURREAL IMAGERY OF ANIMALS ROAMING THE PARKER PALM SPRINGS.

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Photographer Gray Malin journeys to far and away places, capturing eccentric moments that spark fantasy and wonder, like llamas adorned in balloons amidst Bolivia's salt flats, or rainbow-hued sheep in Australia. In his new fine art series, *Gray Malin at the Parker*, he keeps his zest for adventure close to home, shooting at the Parker Palm Springs as exotic animals playfully explore the iconic resort that unites luxury with amusement. Malin put down his camera to discuss the enchanting series, where monkeys are bellhops and giraffes are the guests, temporarily on view at the hotel. With an infectious *joie de vivre*, he proves the old adage: not all who wander are lost.

**Your new fine art series focuses on exotic animals in unexpected places. What inspired the collection?**

Since living in Los Angeles, I've always enjoyed the quick escape to the desert, and the Parker Palm Springs has been my longtime favorite hotel there. This was a chance to let my imagination run wild, and apparently it ran right into a menagerie of wild animals enjoying the hotel with me.

**How did animals become your muse?** I have a deep love for flamingos and penguins and couldn't stop envisioning them on the property. Working with them and the capuchin monkey, zebra and baby giraffe was so much fun—I wish I could live in this fantasy every day.

**Any divas on set?** We had trainers to direct the crew and myself on how to interact with them to keep them as happy models. Zack the zebra wasn't much of a fan of the balloons, as they kept popping, but he was a professional and we got the shot.

**Images of animals in dreamlike settings are one part of your repertoire, but you're also known for aerial shots of beach scenes. How do you capture the perfect composition?** When I'm in the air, people and objects begin to stand out and

form patterns below. Once I'm up there, everything magically comes together visually for me and I'm able to capture the natural art that is being created below in the distance.

**What's the most daring stunt you've done to get the**

**perfect shot?** Standing on a 10-foot inflatable boat in the waters of Antarctica, shooting beach balls up against icebergs the size of a skyscraper that could break apart at any moment. It was the thrill of a lifetime.

**You've said your favorite part of your job is getting to see the world. Can you offer a piece of travel advice to those filled with the same wanderlust?** If you're ever in Bhutan, you must visit the Tiger's Nest Monastery, one of the country's most sacred religious sites. Built in the 8<sup>th</sup> century on the side of a cliff, it is something of another world.

