

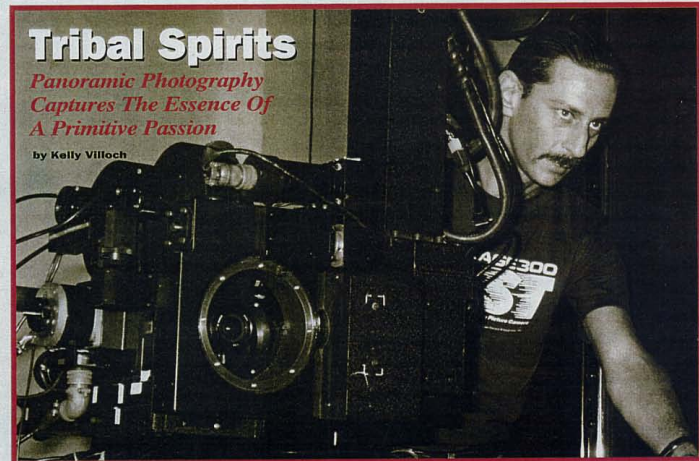
His name may be a gemstone but there are no hard edges on photographer Mark Diamond, the founder of 3-D Worldwide Holograms, Inc., a state-of-the-art holographic production company located in Miami. The facility is comprised of three world-class optical production laboratories, advanced technology interactive motion control film/video studios and a digital production facility running five Silicon Graphics workstations.

Gifted with an artist's eye, Diamond cuts to the chase when it comes to capturing the visual image. He sees things differently than most. Inventive and innovative, Diamond pushes the photographic envelope to the extreme whatever the assignment at hand.

A man of few words, his work speaks for itself and eloquently so. Shooting subject matter that runs the gamut from the high-tech interior of a television studio on South Beach to a sweeping sea-side view of the upper deck aboard the flagship of a luxury cruise line, there's something BIG about Mark Diamond's photography that's easily discernible to the naked eye.

It's big all right, downright huge — 360 degrees around to be exact. In fact, it's called panoramic photography for just that reason.

"I find the Hitachi MPEG video camera a pivotal tool for image-intensive design," Diamond said. "Perfect for Web pages, it records MPEG video, JPEG



Tribal Spirits

Panoramic Photography Captures The Essence Of A Primitive Passion

by Kelly Vilcoch

stills and digital audio all in one cool handheld unit. The most troublesome part of working and playing with the thing in

public is that it's often mistaken for a Star Trek tricorder!"

TELLING A STORY

Diamond's panoramic photography brings an entirely new meaning to the phrase, "Every picture tells a story."

Diamond recently completed a project for the Miami Museum of Science, documenting an exhibit of 50 life-castings by Peruvian sculptor Felipe Lettersten. A visual record, the sculptures are a moving example of the great diversity of native peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere. Lettersten captured the Indians' spirits by traveling down their river highways, living in their houses, watching the way they worked and played.

In turn, Diamond captured the spirit of Lettersten's art in his photography of the statues. "Standing silent on display, the weight of their numbers spoke to me. I wanted to capture the essence of their spirit in my photograph," Diamond said.

Always on the cutting edge of imaging technology, Diamond is also involved in photo-documenting the excavation of a Tequesta Indian archeological site known as the Miami Circle. Cut into the limestone where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay, artifacts unearthed point to the use of the area by ancient peoples as a ceremonial site much along the lines of Stonehenge.

Diamond's efforts are visible at savethecircle.com and at artbell.com/miami. ■

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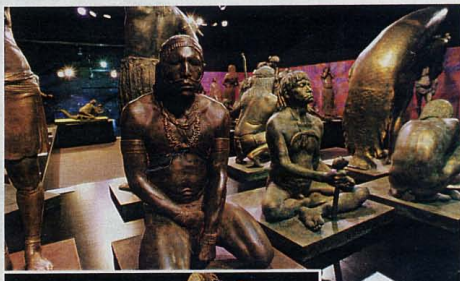
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Photographer Mark Diamond uses the Hitachi MPEG video camera for such projects as "Tribal Spirits," a documentation of an exhibit at the Miami Museum of Science by Peruvian sculptor Felipe Lettersten.