

GEORGE C. BERTICEVICH, MFA

George C. Berticevich, MFA - is a photographer, collector and activist. His award winning iconic 360° panoramic images of China act as metaphors, awakening new ways of seeing. He has been in the vanguard of 360° photography having won the first Photographer of the Year and, later, Best in the World awards from the International Association of Panoramic Photographers.

Berticevich holds an MFA degree from San Francisco State University. His work has been widely exhibited from the Ansel Adams Center in San Francisco to the Capitol in Washington D.C. He has been a guest lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Beijing Film Academy. His work has been collected by many institutions and private collectors including the Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, Bibliothèque National, Paris, and many others.

A born collector, he is one of the world's only collectors of photographer's painted backdrops, a catalyst in the field. In 1975, he found, through the California Sausalito flea market, remnants of the lost world of May's Photo Studio, including backdrops by painter Mock Kug Ming and hundreds of portraits that embodied them. Since that time he has acquired 1,100 May's Studio photographs and artifacts, including a recent discovery of nearly 100 panoramic negatives. He has exhibited May's Studio photographs and backdrops at: *With New Eyes: Toward an Asian American Art History in the West*, San Francisco State University, *Spectacular Vernacular - Painted Backgrounds & Studio Portraits from the George C. Berticevich Collection*, Presentation House, Vancouver, Canada.

With his own "Chinese Inclusion Act of the 21st Century" the SOUL images of the Chinese of America were included in the following publications: *American Faces: A Cultural History of Portraiture and Identity*; *America by the Yard: Cirkut Camera Images from the Early Twentieth Century*; *The Great Wide Open: Panoramic Photographs of the American West*.

He is currently working on a book from his collections and has a previously published exhibition catalog by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; *Photo Backdrops: The George C. Berticevich Collection*.

"May's Photo Studio is the King Tut's tomb of Chinese American Photography!"
- George C. Berticevich