



"Golden Vibrations" was taken at Crystal Portal, a shop located in Railroad Square. The unique angle of the didgeridoo player is prominent in the image. VERONICA HERNANDEZ

# Magic moments

## Yoga is a secret power for photographer Veronica Hernandez

**Amanda Sieradzki**  
Council on Culture & Arts

Photographer Veronica Hernandez does not fear sand nor flying bugs when it comes to capturing the perfect angle.

She has crouched and rolled in the beaches at the St. Mark's Lighthouse for a friend's engagement photoshoot, and despite leaving itchy and full of bites, found the end result to be completely worth it.

Truthfully, Hernandez is a master of poses no matter the environment. She completed her yoga teacher training last month. She enjoys not only taking photos of her fellow yogis, but also uses her knowledge of the physical, somatic practice to help her clients capture their best selves on film.

"Going through the training has helped me to hone my craft," says Hernandez. "There are a lot of clients out there who get super nervous, especially at the beginning of a shoot, so I try to incorporate some of my yoga breathing techniques to help them."

Hernandez's photograph, "Golden Vibrations," is breath personified. The photo is one of three by

See **HERNANDEZ, Page 4C**



**Veronica Hernandez has three photos as a part of this year's Photofest 2020. The exhibit is on display at the Artport Gallery and on COCA's new Online Gallery.**

VERONICA HERNANDEZ

### If you go

**What:** Photofest 2020

**Where:** On display online and at the Artport Gallery 3300 Capital Circle SW

**When:** 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m., now through Jan. 25

**Contact:** To learn more, please visit <https://coca.tallahasseearts.org/art-in-public-places/artport-gallery>. To access the online gallery visit <http://cocaonlinegallery.zenfolio.com/>.

### Inside

See all Photofest 2020 winners on Page 2C

# Hernandez

Continued from Page 1C

Hernandez featured as a part of this year's Photofest 2020. The exhibit is on display at the Artport Gallery and on COCA's new Online Gallery.

"Golden Vibrations" was taken at Crystal Portal, a shop located in Railroad Square. The unique angle of the digeridoo player is prominent in the image, as are the rays of the sun that are refracted by the camera's lens.

"I wanted to give the feeling of the vibrations from the sound healing that they were doing and show how magical and transformative that can be," says Hernandez.

At age 10, Hernandez learned how to use her father's camera. She remembers gathering her younger sister and her mother's clothes to stage a mini photoshoot. Paging through the photographs from that time, she's proud of her eye for angles, even at such a young age.

"I just remember thinking how cool it was to freeze those moments in time," remarks Hernandez.

Her talents continued to be fostered at Tallahassee Community College where she took several photography classes to better understand composition, lighting and the rule of thirds. Eventually it was her friends' continual support that gave her the confidence to start her own business, Images by V-RON, in 2007.

Hernandez captures everything from couples to portraits. She tries to incorporate nature as a way of creating a candid, fun and creative atmosphere for her clients. One of her favorite photographs is on the cover of her website, taken from a bird's eye view of a young woman whose cascading hair is running over a downed log.

"That one stops me in my tracks because there are memories behind that one," says Hernandez, who always has her eye out for those indescribable moments. "I have moments that I want to last forever, especially when I'm driving by myself. I'll see beautiful meadows or mountains and feel like I need to capture it. Those are the things that really inspire me."

Her photograph, "Olympic Skyline" is another favorite, and is also a part of this year's Photofest exhibit. The expansive landscape captures Hernandez's love for mother nature, and the awe she felt from behind her camera's lens. Often, her creative process starts with a location. She'll scout places around Tallahassee before deciding who she will capture in that area.

In spite of quarantine and the summer lockdown, she was able to turn to the indoors and focus on por-



**"Olympic Skyline" is another favorite of Veronica Hernandez, and is also a part of this year's Photofest exhibit.** VERONICA HERNANDEZ

traiture to channel her creative energies. She reached out to a handful of friends and invited them for one-on-one shoots to play with lighting and mood. "Unfazed," her third photograph in Photofest, came out of this project.

"I went into that one with a theme in mind because I wanted a 1950s type of style," says Hernandez, who had her friend play with poses before landing on a slouched shoulder, head perched on hand and a knowing pout. "It was this look that no matter what happens, nothing is going to bother me. Life is going to move on, and everything is going to be fine."

Hernandez recognizes a timelessness in that sentiment, especially given the challenges of photographing while remaining socially distant.

Similarly, she values the benefits of Photofest's hybrid nature this year. She has loved the chance to share her work in the online gallery with family near and far, as well as arrange a time to go see it in person with her local friends. Regardless of how viewers take in her work, she's always eager to share her creativity and passion with a broader audience.

"I think anybody who has a passion for the arts should do whatever calls to your soul," says Hernandez. "I would love anyone who looks at my photographs to feel something from them whether it's joy or happy tears or inspiration. We should be coming together to help each other and support one another and I think photography is one of the best outlets for me to be able to do that."

*Amanda Sieradzki is the feature writer for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture ([www.tallahasseearts.org](http://www.tallahasseearts.org)).*