

Face-to-Face with the Great Whites

Photography by **Ralph Clevenger**

Art Exhibit Opening and Artist's Reception

Where: Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara

When: Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 5:30 - 7:00pm

Wine & Cheese Reception

Free to the public

Register: www.sbmm.org or (805) 456-8747

Please **RSVP** at sbmm.org or call (805) 456-8747

Sponsored by: **Mimi Michaelis and Alice Tweedy Tuohy Foundation**

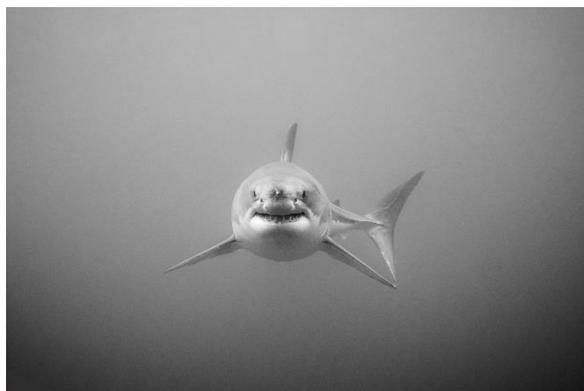


Exhibit runs through March 2019

Face-to-Face with the Great Whites is an exhibition of fine-art photography and videos of Great White Sharks off the coasts of Australia and Mexico.

The great white shark is the only known survivor of the prehistoric genus *Carcharodon* and one of the world's apex predators. It is generally accepted that they grow to be 22 to 23 feet long, give birth to live young, and are found predominantly in temperate and tropical seas. Most active during the daytime, their preferred prey is marine mammals (including, seals, sea lions, elephant seals, dolphins) and fish (including other sharks and rays); however, they are highly adaptable and can shift their diet and habitats as needed. Although most people are aware of "Great Whites," relatively little is actually known about them because of their scarcity and reclusive behavior. As a result, their total population is unknown and even local estimates are questionable; but they are being caught by fisherman in increasing numbers and there may be cause for concern for the species.

Working underwater and in submerged cages, Ralph Clevenger was able to take the dramatic images presented in the **Face-to-Face with the Great Whites** exhibit and provide viewers with an up-close view of these magnificent creatures. In Clevenger's words, his photography better "allows us to understand them and helps to demystify their reputation as 'ferocious man eaters.'"

A couple of short films will run during the exhibit to give viewers an idea of what it feels like to work inside the shark cages.

Ralph A. Clevenger grew up on the coast of North Africa and has been diving since he was seven years old. He holds BA degrees in zoology and photography and worked as a diver/biologist for the Scripps Institute before becoming a senior faculty member at Brooks Institute. Clevenger has taught for 33 years and traveled throughout the world on photography assignments and for publication. Now based in Santa Barbara, he “pursues his passion for the natural world by specializing in location photography and video projects of eco-travel, environmental portraiture, wildlife and undersea subjects.”

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Since 2000, the [Santa Barbara Maritime Museum](#) has featured many artifacts and stories to share the history of the Santa Barbara Channel with more than 40,000 visitors annually and provides year-round experiential maritime history and marine science education for local youth. Featuring the impressive *First-Order Fresnel Lighthouse Lens* from Point Conception, SBMM's current exhibits explore *Geology of Oil in Santa Barbara Channel & Chumash Use of Asphaltum*, the *Honda Disaster*, and *Wives and Daughters: Keepers of the Light*.

SBMM is located at the historic Santa Barbara Harbor at 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Visit sbmm.org or call (805) 962-8404 for details.