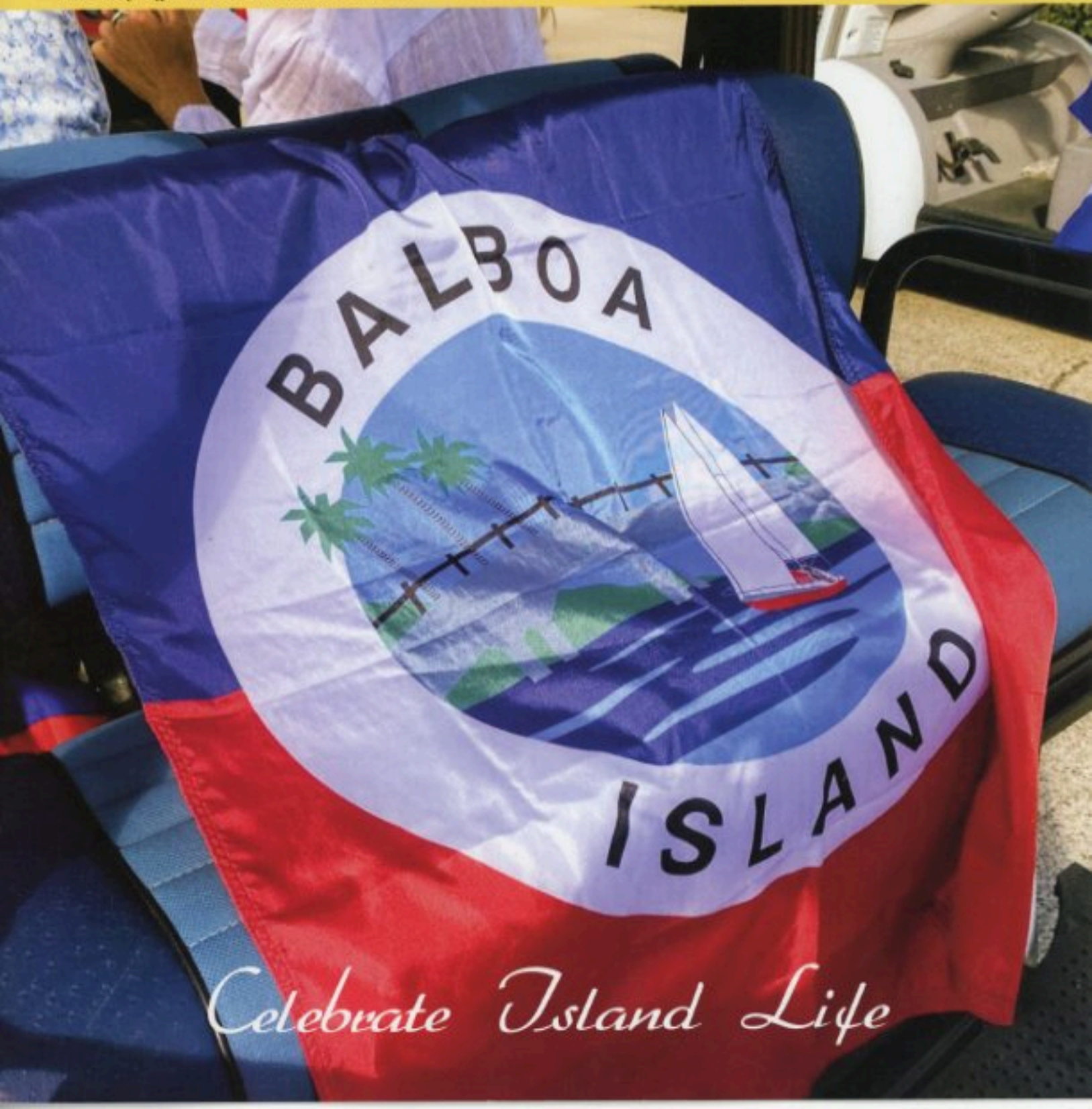


THE ISLAND BRIDGE

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Celebrate Island Life

Museum Showcases International Artist' Photography

Tiffany Pepys Hoey had no trouble choosing a featured artist for the museum's storefront gallery this summer.

"He's on the news everywhere, celebrations everywhere, the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach's Executive Director said. We all knew him, he's in People Magazine."

The "he," is world-renowned fine-art and aerial photographer **Gray Malin**. Just 35, Malin's latest book, "Essential Collection" is a celebration of his first ten years of photography. And in ten years, he has lived and photographed a lifetime, on seven continents. Much of that work, in some form or another, is featured in the museum's gallery throughout the summer.

Pepys Hoey might have selected Malin (pronounced Mah-luhn) anytime but felt his art particularly appropriate now.

"Perfect timing, much of his art reminds of summer, there's one wholly Newport Beach exhibit."

Malin's shot the Wedge in Newport Beach and many of the world's most famous beaches, often from on high, his aerial photography one of many features his art has become known for, in a short period of time.

"He started with aerial views of beaches with only scattered beachgoers, Museum Past President **Shirley Pepys** said. We're thrilled to be a part of Gray Malin's photography exhibit."

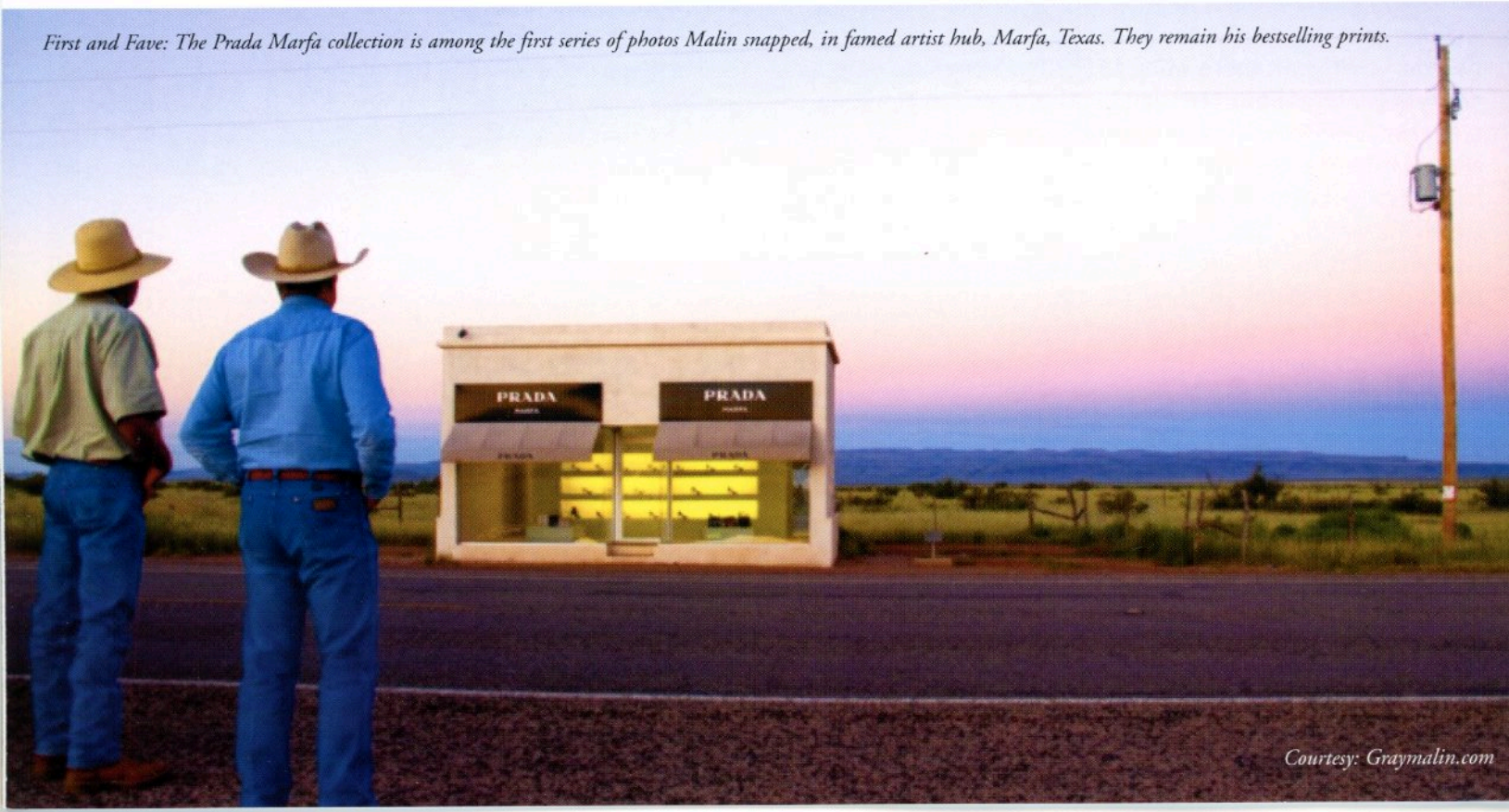
Texas-born Gray Malin caught the photography and travel bug on a high-school travel course. He's combined his marketing and photography training at Boston's Emerson College throughout his career, merging his art seamlessly into products and marketing campaigns for high-end brands including Veuve Clicquot, Le Meriden and Beverly Hills Hotel.



He launched his career in the West Texas town of Marfa (pop 1,813), by placing images of Prada and Prada stores among the Texas landscape and locals. Those images, with titles like "Dawn" and "Two Cowboys," remain his bestselling and personal favorites. He referred to his "Prada Marfa" series as an "ode to Andy Warhol," in a 2016 story in W Magazine.

After that, Malin took off – literally. He dove into aerial photography, often taking pictures of beaches, bathers, and umbrellas from on high – Sydney's Coogee Beach and Bondi Beach among his most popular.

First and Fave: The Prada Marfa collection is among the first series of photos Malin snapped, in famed artist hub, Marfa, Texas. They remain his bestselling prints.





Aerials of beaches and bathers poolside at swanky hotels are recurring themes in Malin's work, and in his new book, "Essential Collection."

"What he has done to combine travel with his work is amazingly brilliant," Shirley Pepys said. All of his works can be taken in or purchased at the summer gallery at the Museum, which can also custom order.

Malin's work and panache have caught the eye and favor of celebrities. Actress Reece Witherspoon is said to be a collector, Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle is an Instagram pal, where Malin has some 450K followers. There's even a Gray Malin app.

"There's a serenity about his work that's captured his audience and become widely known in the art world," Shirley Pepys said.

The elephant at the Parker is iconic," Pepys Hoey said, pointing up Malin's two series of works at the Parker Palm Springs hotel, where Malin's art often features four-legged animals like an elephant or giraffe – playfulness yet another trademark of Malin's art.

The museum has carried Malin's books since it moved to its new location in 2018. There's plenty to carry. The artist is as prolific an author and monographer as he is a photographer. "Beaches," a New York Times bestseller, covered five years of work, 26 cities and six continents. His latest is "Gray Malin: The Essential Collection," covering the first ten years, including some 300 images, many of them beaches, bathers, and umbrellas, like "Beach Ball Splash," shot at Coral Casino Beach in Santa Barbara.

"Umbrellas, loungers and scattered sunbathers...my universal canvas," Malin told the Financial Times, which placed "Essential Collection" on its summer reading list.

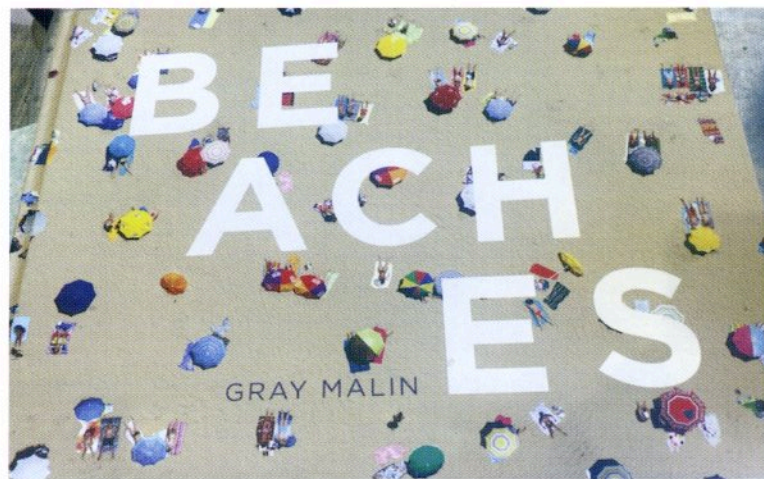
To help launch the Malin Gallery, the museum held a well-attended reception in late June. The West Hollywood photographer's work will be featured in the gallery through September. As for fall, Pepys Hoey and the museum find themselves in an envious position – no shortage of artists calling and stopping by, hoping their work can take up residence.

"We've had success with every artist we put up there," Pepys Hoey said. The designer-curator selects each piece of art of the gallery, and for the second quarter in a row, topped off the exhibit with a ceiling art installation – colorful umbrellas protected the works of the featured local artists in the spring, rattan weave lantern balls hover above Malin's photography.

Malin's works are the main draw this summer, while the Balboa Island Museum Gallery always carries some fifteen local artists, among them mixed-media specialist Marie Lavallee, glass sculptor Lynleigh Love and Little Island oil painter, Jan Steele.

"Gallery very popular with local artists," Shirley Pepys said, noting that the museum store has also exceeded expectations since opening with the new location two and a half years ago.

Visit Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach – check out the Malin exhibit or the gift store, with custom puzzles, art, home decor, and other items. There's online shopping and curbside pickup. All purchases support the museum's community and educational programs. Members receive a 10% discount.



Bestseller: Beaches celebrated Malin's trademark travel, aerial photography, and love of beaches, his "universal canvas"

Monday – Thursday 10am to 5pm, Friday – Sunday 10am to 6pm.
Free general admission.

Become a member: balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member/
Balboa Island Museum is located at 210 Marine Ave., Balboa Island.
For more information, visit <https://balboaislandmuseum.org>.