

# MUSEUM SHOWS

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## Mixed Media – These feet are made for walking: Photographs by Joan Myers



Joan Myers  
Friday, March 7, 2014

Joan Myers: *Abó, New Mexico*, 1980, pigment print

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**Michael Abatemarco** |

Whether it is photographing the 19th-century trade route along the Santa Fe Trail between New Mexico and Missouri, penguins and glaciers in Antarctica, volcanic activity in Iceland, or wildlife in the jungles of India, photographer Joan Myers takes to her subjects with an adventurous zeal. *Beneath Our Feet: Photographs by Joan Myers*, a survey of her work, opens Friday, March 7, at the New Mexico Museum of Art (107 W. Palace Ave.).

“*Beneath Our Feet* talks about both the land we walk on and our feet, so it implies a human presence. These are things I’ve been interested in for a long time,” Myers told *Pasatiempo*. “You could sort of consider it a miniretrospective. It has selections from several bodies of work but certainly not all of them. It has work from very early in Los Angeles. It has work from the *Santa Fe Trail* series, which is a body of work the museum owns quite a few prints from. It has a little bit from the Antarctic work and images from more recent work, which is volcanic. I’m calling that *Fire and Ice* at this point.”

The exhibition is curated by Kate Ware, the museum’s curator of photography. “She wanted to do something that gave a sense of how the work has changed over time,” Myers said. “It’s been 40 years, so that’s a lot

of time. Forty years ago things were very different. I was using a view camera. I was shooting black and white. Now I'm almost entirely digital.”

Myers' recent work explores the themes of climate change. She shot in locations with extreme conditions to capture vivid images of erupting volcanoes, icebergs, and geothermal activity. “The work has really taken me to some fascinating places, including Indonesia and Java. Volcanos are seductive. They pull you in and you want to get closer. I try to avoid situations which are obviously dangerous, but by nature it's a little risky.”

The reception for *Beneath Our Feet* is Friday, March 7, at 5 p.m. Opening concurrently are *Grounded*, a group show of landscape photography, and *Photo Lab*, an exhibit exploring photographic processes. The three shows are part of the museum's yearlong series *Focus on Photography*. There is no charge for admission to the reception; afterward, entrance is by museum admission. Myers discusses her work in a free gallery talk on Friday, April 4. Call 505-476-5072.