



TONY CARAMANICO / CHRIS LEIDY: *ENDLESS SUMMER*

August 23 – September 1, 2014

Opening Artist's Reception: Saturday, August 23, 2014, 6 – 8PM

ARC Fine Art is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition Tony Caramanico/Chris Leidy: *Endless Summer* on view from August 23 – September 1, 2014 with an artist's reception on Saturday, August 23 from 6 - 8pm. A selection of chromogenic prints by world-renowned underwater photographer Chris Leidy will be paired with a collection of pigment prints on paper and canvas by legendary Montauk-based surfer/artist Tony Caramanico. Capturing the euphoric nature of aquatic plants and animals and intense water formations, Chris Leidy's photographs present viewers with vivid images that provide a new, contemporary perspective on underwater landscape photography. Similarly awe-inspiring and dramatically presented, Caramanico's daily surf journals offer a rare glimpse into the ever-alluring surf culture of the U.S. and abroad.

Tony Caramanico, famed Montauk-based surfer, created a life around surfing since the first day he picked up a board in 1963- a day he fondly recalls. Though his surfing has taken him to far-flung surf breaks around the globe, Montauk has been Caramanico's home base since he moved there in 1971. After trying his hand at a number of businesses, Caramanico decided in his late 30s to get back into surfing "in a major way," finding his niche with longboarding. Caramanico has won a number of regional competitions, and in 1991, he placed first in a professional longboard competition in New Jersey. After taking top honors at the Legend's Classic in Costa Rica, he earned his own line of surfboards under the auspices of famed surfer Greg Noll. Caramanico continues to be an active leader in the Montauk surf community today, surfing regularly and teaching lessons. Since the early 1980s, Caramanico has been chronicling his extensive travels into daily journals that combine words, original art, pictures and magazine clippings. Five years ago, his journals were discovered for their artistic value and were transformed into vibrant pigment prints and stretched canvas prints. These images have also been transferred onto beautifully detailed surfboards, which are valued for both their craftsmanship and their artistic qualities. Warren Padula aptly summarizes the rich pictorial records found within Caramanico's prints: It's a personal history of who came for lunch, where the party is, the surf, the

shopping list, the friends and girlfriends, and it's also a history of the world as it filtered back to the beach; the hostages, the Challenger explosion, echoes of a fire 8,000 miles away.

Palm Beach native and grandson of iconic fashion designer Lilly Pulitzer, Chris Leidy grew up with a deep admiration for the ocean and aquatic life and has made his mark as a world-renowned underwater photographer. He explains his artistic mission, striving to create "a collection of photographs that not only appealed to ocean- enthusiasts, but the contemporary fine art lovers as well," and his works provide breathtaking images of island life and aquatic landscapes that far surpass traditional underwater photography. *Forbes Magazine* calls Leidy "the prince of tides," and his works are often accompanied by stories of face-to-face encounters with ten-foot sharks and late night dives during his month long stays on deserted islands. He admits that many of his photos are "happy accidents" and products of his curiosity and explorations. He explains: "To have one shot you're looking for really blocks your creative, wandering eye. Seeing something you're not looking for could turn out to be some amazing masterpiece." Created in limited editions of 5 or 7, each piece from Leidy's current collection was captured during his underwater explorations around the world, including three months in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia French Polynesia, Panama and another three month venture to Palau/Micronesia, Maldives, and Fiji. Leidy's work has been featured in *Ocean Drive*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Forbes Magazine*, and his most recent exhibitions include the Christie's Green Auction in April 2012 and *Fathom*, a 25 piece solo exhibition at Condé Nast in NY which then traveled to ARC Fine Art in Fairfield, Connecticut in the summer of 2012.

ARC Fine Art is a contemporary art gallery based in Fairfield, Connecticut, featuring both emerging and highly established artists from around the world. For more information, please view the gallery website: [arcfineartllc.com](http://arcfineartllc.com) or contact Adrienne Ruger Conzelman at [arcfineart@me.com](mailto:arcfineart@me.com). Located at 303 Main Street in Amagansett, New York, the gallery will be open Thursday – Monday 10am to 6pm.