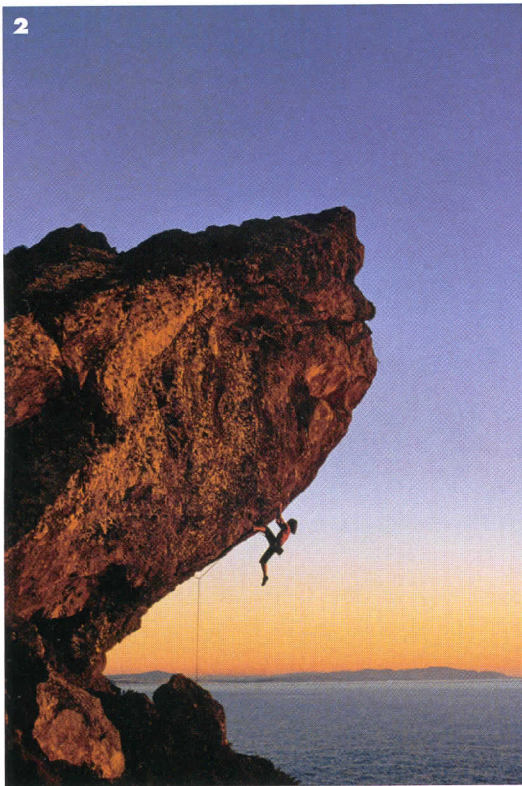


1

From Rowell's Sierra Club retrospective:

1. "Moonlight at Concordia, Karakoram Himalaya, Pakistan, 1975." **2.** "Ron Kauk on Endless Bummer Near Mickey's Beach, Marin County, California 1990." **3.** "Wild Horses Below Fitz Roy, Patagonia, Argentina, 1985."

"I've known all along that more of what I am seeking in the wilds is right here in my home state of California than anywhere else on earth," Rowell said late in life, offering hope to less well traveled photographers. "But I couldn't say it with authority until I had all those journeys to Tibet, Nepal, Pakistan, China, South America, Antarctica, and Alaska behind me."



2

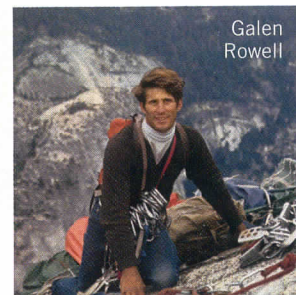
PHOTOGRAPH BY GALEN ROWELL/MOUNTAIN LIGHT (4)

THE VIEW FROM ABOVE REMEMBERING GALEN ROWELL

Though in retrospect the mystique of Galen Rowell seems equal parts photography and adventure, the latter sometimes outweighed the former during his sadly shortened career. Rowell's adventure credentials were indisputable, but his pure landscapes verged on the sentimental. His signature use of the split neutral density filter—a tool that can impart a kind of artifice to the natural world—seemed driven more by a wish to make a scene conform to his feeling for its beauty than by the need to solve a technical problem in order to present its truth.

Nevertheless, the critical mass of images in *Galen Rowell: A Retrospective* (Sierra Club Books, \$50) shows that on balance Rowell was a superb photographer. It contains over 175 wonderfully edited and handsomely reproduced images, but it isn't just a picture book. It includes rich tributes from Rowell's friends and colleagues, including newsman Tom Brokaw, mountaineer Conrad Anker, and critic Andy Grundberg. In one, fellow photographer Frans Lanting paints Rowell as a transcendentalist in motion—a philosopher who actually lived his ideas.

—RUSSELL HART



Galen Rowell

HOMAGE LANTING ON ROWELL

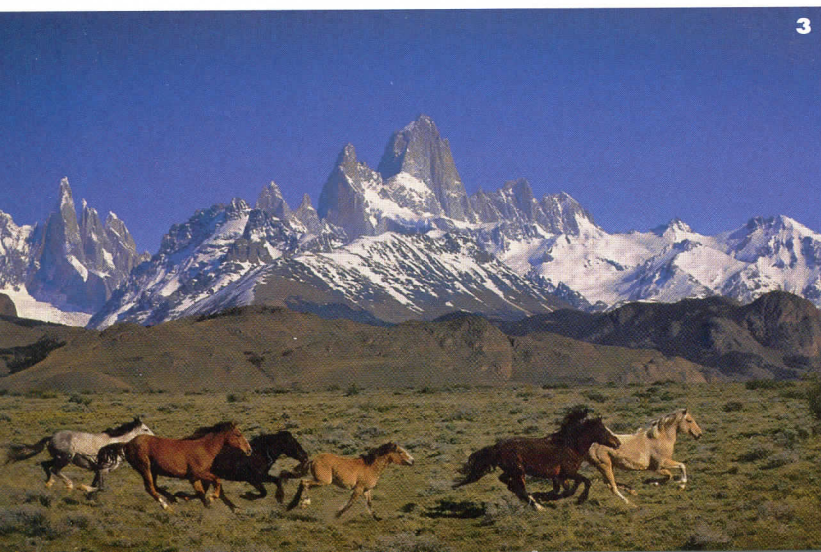
"Galen was in perpetual motion all his life.

His strength and drive enabled him to go farther, higher, and faster than any other photographer I know. He was remarkably disciplined, both physically and mentally. When we worked together in the field, I marveled at the way he moved with absolute focus and economy of motion.

"But Galen did not just connect physically with landscapes. His photographic vision grew out of a unique mix of athletic abilities, technical skills, intellectual understanding, and artistic intuition, which enabled him to identify, chase, capture, and interpret those ephemeral moments when light and landscape interact in ways that transcend specific situations."

—FRANS LANTING

For Frans Lanting's complete essay from *Galen Rowell: A Retrospective* (below), visit AmericanPhotoMag.com.



3

