

# double eXposure

a publication of photoworkshop.com

January 1, 2004

**David Hume Kennerly** He Didn't Start the Fire.



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## cover story

### About The Cover: David Hume Kennerly: He Didn't Start The Fire

By Connor Leighton

Jan 1, 2004

David Hume Kennerly's photographic curiosity was piqued when he saw a garage on fire. Interestingly enough, it wasn't so much the fire that grabbed his attention. It was the fact that the only man to get behind the police tape was a photographer from the local Roseburg, Oregon newspaper.



Betty Ford ©David Hume Kennerly

Like Larry Burrows, one of his foremost influences, Kennerly's name has become synonymous with the Vietnam War. "[Burrows] really nailed what I wanted to do...action...courage." And perhaps with this in mind, Kennerly produced some of the most remarkable images to come out of Vietnam, which won him the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography in 1972.

"I like photographing people who make the world go round," he says. It's impossible to label Kennerly's work, or to crowd him in any niche. And so we can see his work ranging from political triumphs and downfalls (7 different wars) to presidential preeminence to sitcom soirees.

However, if someone pressured him to define his career with one photograph (which I may or may not have inadvertently done): "I would have to say the '5 Presidents' (George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon) just because that seems to be the most popular one. And it was very important historically; it was the first time ever that five presidents had been in one spot."



China ©David Hume Kennerly

Now it would appear that Kennerly has acquired the ability to be in more than one place at the same time. Of course this is an illusion that every great journalistic photographer has learned to create, or what Kennerly would refer to as "learning how to see." When you learn how to "see" and not just look, the resulting image is art, an image that everyone can fully understand and shapes their worldview. You're there, with David Hume Kennerly, taking the most important picture in the world.

As with everything, learning to "see" is a process. "Take pictures. Learn from your mistakes. Just keep shooting and shooting and shooting..." he chuckles. "Some people have a talent for this. But even if you don't: the more you practice, the luckier you get-- and that goes for everyone. I'm an old dog learning new digital tricks. I learn something new every day."



Anwar Sadat ©David Hume Kennerly

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**About David Hume Kennerly:**

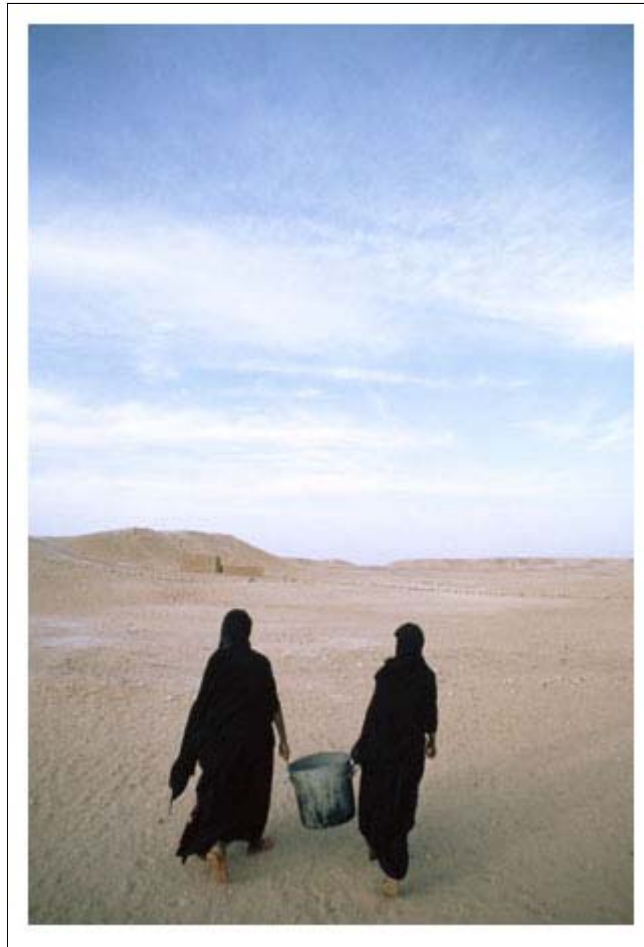
Internationally recognized as one of the greatest photographers of his time, David Hume Kennerly has been photographing history for four decades. Kennerly's career began in Roseburg, Oregon, where he published his first picture in the high school paper when he was just 15 years old. His first official photographer jobs--as a staff photographer for the Oregon Journal and then the Portland Oregonian -- led him in to a position with United Press International (UPI).



Donald Rumsfeld ©David Hume Kennerly

In 1972, Kennerly won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for his remarkable photographs of the Vietnam war. After the war, Kennerly returned to the United States for Time Magazine, and in mid-1973 and threw himself into the domestic battles then raging in Washington. After Richard Nixon resigned, Kennerly was on the South Lawn of the White House as the soon-to-be ex-President departed. His historic photo of Nixon's wave goodbye, taken when Kennerly was just 27 years old, is one of the dozens of his images that have helped define American photojournalism.

Nixon's successor, President Gerald Ford, asked Kennerly to serve as his White House Photographer, a role that resulted in some of the most personal political pictures of his career. During Ford's tenure, Kennerly photographed world leaders including Emperor Hirohito in Japan, Leonid Brezhnev in the USSR, Franco in Spain, Ceausescu in Romania, Marcos in the Philippines, Tito in Yugoslavia, Suharto in Indonesia, Deng Xiao Ping in the People's Republic of China, and Queen Elizabeth during the bicentennial celebration at the White House.



©David Hume Kennerly

When the Ford Presidency ended, Time swiftly called the 29-year-old Kennerly back to action, sending him to photograph Fidel Castro in Cuba, President Anwar Sadat in Egypt, and the horrors of Jonestown in Guyana, among many other assignments. He went on to major projects for Newsweek, LIFE, ABC Good Morning America Sunday, and George Magazine. Kennerly has photographed more than 35 covers for Time and Newsweek, covered assignments in more than 130 countries, and counts more than one million images in his photographic archive.

In the year 2000, Kennerly traveled more than 250,000 miles to 38 states and seven countries for his fourth book, *Photo du Jour: A Picture-A-Day Journey through the First Year of the New Millennium*, published in October 2002 by the University of Texas Press. A companion exhibition of fine art prints from *Photo du Jour* appeared at the Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building from October 1, 2002-December 29, 2002. This University of Texas Center for American History will sponsor a museum tour of the *Photo du Jour* exhibit nationally and internationally.



Seinfeld ©David Hume Kennerly

In 2002, Kennerly served as Program Chair for Washington Mutual Banks forward-thinking "Home of the Free™ Student Photojournalism Project". Home of the Free gave 7th- and 8th -grade students the opportunity to learn how photography is used in news reporting about government, while creating photos of public servants in their own communities. In 2003 & 2004 Kennerly will serve as National Program Chair as Washington Mutual expands Home of the Free™ nation-wide.

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David Hume Kennerly's photography prints will be at Art Miami and Photo L.A. in January 2004:

Art Miami 2004  
Miami Beach Convention Center -- Hall D  
1901 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Coplan Gallery, Booth # 220  
January 7- 11, 2004

Photo L.A. 2004  
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium  
1855 Main Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90036

Coplan Gallery, Booth # 67  
January 15 - 18, 2004

Make sure you go visit David Hume Kennerly's website at [kennerly.com](http://kennerly.com), where you can find more pictures to appreciate and enjoy or add to your collection.

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