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GENDER IDENTITY EXPLORED IN NEW BOOK OF AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS *Jana Marcus's Acclaimed Work Transfigurations Comes To Book Format in September 2011*

"Transfigurations is a bold, gutsy visual feast—not just for the eyes, but for the heart and soul. In her courageous endeavor to explore gender, Jana Marcus takes us along a hypnotic ride that invites us to question everything we think we might know about “man,” “woman” and the typically uncharted waters in between. Stunning!” —Greg Archer, *San Francisco Examiner*

Aptos, CA — Acclaimed California documentary photographer Jana Marcus's popular, award-winning work, *Transfigurations*, will be published in September by 7 Angels Press.

Known for her compassionate and revealing photographic images of underground subcultures, author Jana Marcus brings to book format her work, *Transfigurations*, a startling and ground-breaking photographic series on the transgender community. *Transfigurations* explores transsexuals and their notions of masculinity and femininity as they change gender identities. Introduction by renowned author and trans activist Jamison Green.

In black and white images accompanied by text Marcus focuses on what it means to be a man and a woman in our culture by people who have changed genders—blurring the line of gender separation and stereotyping. Marcus will launch the book with two signings in Santa Cruz, CA, at Capitola Book Café on September 29 and Bookshop Santa Cruz on October 13.

“I discovered that gender is both real and illusory, natural and constructed,” Marcus comments. “By capturing the physical and mental transformation from one sex/gender to another, the photos reveal the importance of the body to gender identity, as well as the effects of transformative practices on the body, which creates a reality beyond ordinary experience.”

Over the past decade three phenomena have starkly increased: heightened public awareness of transgender issues, increased visibility of transgender persons, and discrimination and violence directed at transgendered, intersexed, and gender variant people. The Gender Education and Advocacy organization states that, “Transgendered people are the most stigmatized and misunderstood of the larger sexual minorities (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender).” In spite of this, the transgender community has emerged as a new movement, expanding the language of gender and sex.

Transfigurations, originally a 58-piece photographic exhibit which toured galleries and universities across the U.S. from 2004 to 2010, was included in the prestigious Best Photos of The Year in both 2004 and 2005 by Photo District News of New York, as well as The International Photography Awards, The Phelan Art Awards, The Excellence in Photography Award from San Jose State University's School of Art & Design, and The Center for Photographic Arts Awards.

***Transfigurations* By Jana Marcus**

Foreword by Jamison Green

Art/Photography/Gender Studies/Human Sexuality/Human Rights

12x12 inches, 144 pages.

Softback \$35.00 - ISBN # 978-0-9833434-0-0

Hardcover \$50.00 - ISBN # 978-0-9833434-1-7

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Santa Cruz Book Events:

Sept. 29 - Capitola Book Café with Nick Krieger - 7:30 PM

Oct. 13 - Bookshop Santa Cruz with Jamison Green - 7:30 PM

To set up an interview with artist Jana Marcus or a transgender spokesperson from the book, or obtain a review copy or images for press purposes, please contact Jana Marcus at 831-458-2377 or info@7angelspress.com.

About Jana Marcus

Jana Marcus has been creating award-winning documentary photography for over 20 years. She is a professional photographer in the California Bay Area focusing on the documentary, editorial and performing arts genres. Her work has been exhibited across the United States and extensively published in newspapers and magazines. Jana received the UC Berkeley Center for Photography's International Photojournalism Award for her series *After Midnight: Youth Subcultures of New York City* and she was recently named one of 50 Exceptional International Photographers by Exposure of New York. *Transfigurations* has won many prestigious photography awards including the Best Photos of The Year in both 2004 and 2005 by Photo District News of New York. Jana received her MFA from San Jose State University, a BA in Community Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and studied photography at The School Of Visual Arts in New York City. Jana's first book, *In The Shadow of the Vampire: Reflections From The World Of Anne Rice*, was published by Thunder's Mouth Press of New York. She frequently lectures on the subject of documentary photography. For more information please visit www.janamarcus.com.

About 7 Angels Press

7 Angels is a small, independent press dedicated to promoting artistic works that may otherwise have gone unnoticed. When award-winning photographer Jana Marcus could not find a mainstream publisher for her photodocumentary on the transgender community, seven amazing people came forward to help publish the acclaimed work in highest museum quality book format and bring it to the public. Hence, 7 Angels Press was born. Marcus's *Transfigurations* is the inaugural publication. www.7angelspress.com.

Transfigurations is a ground-breaking collection of images that surpasses labels normally associated with transsexuals. It is a visual document of humanity as well as our community's unwavering commitment to whom we know ourselves to be, yet others persist in trying to diminish. Marcus's work is a glimpse into our souls and an important step in society's understanding of who we are. *Transfigurations* will change lives!

—Theresa Sparks, Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

This is powerful stuff! *Transfigurations* is deeply moving. Marcus captures the dignity of people with clarity and honesty, calling forth the hope that many closed minds may be opened and many faint hearts be mended.

— Dennis J. Dunleavy, Ph.D., Department of Communication, Southern Oregon University