



Photos by William Binzen

“Black Rock Hot Springs — Blessed by Water Sprites and Submerged Neon — Commencing Desert Siteworks, 1992,” 24 by 30 inches, shot on 8-by-10 film.

Photographer helped turn the focus of Burning Man toward art in 1990s

By Jessica Zack

In many of William Binzen’s photographs of Burning Man artists and revelers from the early ’90s, when the fledgling desert event drew hundreds, not yet tens of thousands, of people to Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, his camera seems to hover above the participants, somewhere between human perspective and a bird’s-eye view.

“I was the only one carting around the playa a stepladder and giant 8-foot tripod,” says Binzen, 68, who photographed Burning Man with his medium-format and 8x10 view cameras for 21 years beginning in 1990. “I pulled everything in an oversized trailer behind my bicycle, along with my backpack, clothes

William Binzen: Waking Dream: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday. Through Aug. 27. Smith Andersen North Gallery, 20 Greenfield Ave., San Anselmo. (415) 455-9733. www.smithandersennorth.com/home

A Panel Discussion on the Intersection of Art + Environment as a Catalyst for Personal Change and Transformation: Moderator Anne Veh, an independent curator, will moderate the panel featuring William Binzen, John Law and Stefan Kirkeby. 7 p.m. July 29.