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“Our employees have Blue Air running through their veins”

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Andreea Raicu

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When Passion Becomes Art

We have all watched an aircraft landing or taking off at least once in our lives. For aviation enthusiasts, plane spotting is more than required. American Jeffrey Milstein has taken his love for airports and aircraft to the next level. The outcome is fascinating and worldwide appreciated.

Cu toți am urmărit „live”, cel puțin o dată, aterizarea sau decolarea unui avion. Pentru pasionații de aviație, spotting-ul este mai mult decât obligatoriu. Americanul Jeffrey Milstein a decis să ducă dragostea pentru aeroporturi și avioane la următorul nivel. Rezultatul este fascinant, fiind apreciat în întreaga lume.

Teodor Ștefan, www.aeronews.ro

Născut în Los Angeles, Jeffrey a încă de mic tot ce avea legătură cu aviația. Copilul Jeffrey Milstein obișnuia să se ducă zilnic lângă pistele aeroportului din Los Angeles (LAX) pentru a urmări avioanele la aterizare trecând fulgerator pe deasupra sa cu 290 km/h. „În acele vremuri vedete erau DC-3 și DC-6. Acum câțiva ani am revenit în acel loc - eu locuind momentan în New York - pentru a vedea dacă pot retrăi senzățiile de atunci. Mai precis momentul în care avionul se îndreaptă direct spre tine și apoi trece pe deasupra atât de aproape încât crezi că poți să îl poți atinge” a declarat Milstein. Ajuns la liceu, Jeffrey a început să filmeze „păsăriile din metal” ce aterizau pe aeroportul din Santa Monica folosind o cameră video de 8 mm. Tot atunci a început să construiască și aeromodele, iar când a împlinit 17 ani a luat examenul pentru licența de pilot privat. În perioada creativă, dar tumultuoasă a anilor 1960, Milstein a studiat arhitectură la Universitatea California, Berkeley. Patru decenii mai târziu, după o carieră de succes ca arhitect și mai apoi Graphic Designer pentru propria editură, Jeffrey și-a vândut afacerea pentru a se concentra pe fotografia. A dorit să se axeze pe pasiunea sa pentru aviație, care avea să devină subiectul principal al creațiilor apreciate pe plan mondial. Fotografile lui Jeffrey au fost publicate în numeroase publicații celebre precum Men’s Vogue, European Photography, American Photo, Eyemazing, Die Zeit, Liberation, Conde Nast Portfolio, Wired și Esquire.
Born in Los Angeles, Jeffrey loved everything about aviation ever since he was a child. As a boy, he used to go near the LAX airport runways (LAX) just to watch landing planes passing over his head at a stunning 290 km/h speed. “DC-3 and DC-6 were the stars back then. A couple of years ago, as I’m currently living in New York, I returned to that place trying to revive my childhood memories. I am talking about that very moment when the plane was flying straight towards me, than passing over so close that I almost believed I could jump up and touch it”, said Milstein. When he was in high-school, Jeffrey started shooting those “iron birds” with an 8 mm camera. He also started to build plane models and when he turned 17 he got his licence as a private pilot. During those creative but turbulent 60’s, Milstein studied architecture at Berkeley University, California. Four decades later, after a successful career as an architect and then Graphic Designer for his own publishing company, Jeffrey sold his business to focus on photography. He has devoted himself to his aviation passion that has become the center of his internationally appreciated creations. Jeffrey’s photographs have been published in several famous publications: Men’s Vogue, European Photography, American Photo, Eyemazing, Die Zeit, Liberation, Conde Nast Portfolio, Wired and Esquire. >>
same time, collecting airplane models has become an obsession. I have asked Jeffrey to tell us more about the work behind the airplanes he shoots in Los Angeles. I usually spend about 4 to 5 hours at the airport. I shoot around 40-50 frames, but I choose a few, only the best. Some days I take lots of photographs, other days I take less. Airplanes must be perfectly aligned, one wing should not appear higher or lower than the other when I take a photo. Windy days are the most demanding as pilots perform lots of correction maneuvers and I have to guess the position of the airplane when it gets right over my head. Being a pilot really helps, as I am able to understand the techniques that pilots in the cockpit may apply to counteract the winds. So I can easily guess their next position. I use one tripod for the planes that I shoot from the front but I don’t use it for the aircraft shot from beneath. I need as much light as I can get. Cloudy days are not suitable at all. My favourite time for shooting is noon or afternoon.\"
Milstien’s portfolio includes two collections dedicated to aviation. The first one, named ‘Aircraft’, best illustrates those moments spent in the airport area, that used to bring so much joy to Jeffrey when he was a child: spotting and shooting landing planes. Images of flying aircrafts, caught with a high performance camera, reveal the beauty and power of these complex machines. Jeffrey’s photographs freeze time and motion at a precise moment, allowing the viewer to explore, admire and reflect on the beauty of planes”, a critic said referring to Milstein’s works. In his turn, Jeffrey added: “The architect in me wanted to get perfect pictures: precisely centered, symmetrical and lively. In the pictures of the planes shot from beneath I have intentionally smoothed away the background just to focus on these amazing, beautiful, gravity-defying machines. The eye must follow the aircraft’s external shape, colors and simetry. Cameras have evolved through time so now I shoot with an 80 megapixel one. I can transfer any photograph onto a 1,78 meter square in print. At the