Parting Shot

Devils Den is a popular freshwater spring in North Central Florida. This location is unique as it is a karst window that opens into a vast air-filled chamber. Most karst windows are simply surface openings into our underwater river systems. An entrance, if you will, into a cave system where the water comes to the surface. Devils Den is different. A diver descends via a set of stairs starting at ground level and going down another 30 feet to the 'lake'. The ceiling is a dome of rock with a round skylight (the karst window) in the middle.

Rocks from the ceiling have fallen into the lake making this a dive site of swim throughs. Visibility is generally in the 40-foot range, but it is very dark as the only area illuminated by the sun is directly under the karst window. UW photos require strobes or video lights.

On this specific dive my dive buddy and model extraordinaire Soo Yon Ryu and I agreed to shoot in and around the rock passages. No caves, just areas that look like caves. Our dive time that day was just around an hour, and I felt like I had some good shots.

We surfaced under the skylight and I began to arrange my camera and strobes for the narrow stairs. I loosened all the joints on the strobe arms allowing the strobes to hand straight down. Final arrangement is easiest if everything is always in the same position when I begin the process.

I looked up and saw Soo Yon floating on her back looking up into the sunlight. It was magic! She looked like a nymph floating in a sacred spring. A Naiad out of mythology. I was able to lift the camera out of the water for a quick series of shots. If I hadn't let the strobes hang down I never would have been able to raise the camera out of the water and get this shot. My exposure settings were unchanged from underwater – light from my strobes being replaced by the sunlight.



Sony A7r IVa, Nauticam Housing, 35mm lens, ISO 1600, f16 @ 1/80

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**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**

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