

AMATEUR

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

EZINE

IMAGE BY TOSHIYA ARAI

INTRODUCING THE 300MM F/6 MCDK ASTROGRAPH V2
BY **JTW ASTRONOMY**



FEATURED ASTROPHOTOGRAPHERS

GIANNI KRATTLI

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SKY WATCHER STAR ADVENTURER REVIEW
BY JOE GILKER OF **DARKASTR.CA**



This behind the scenes article will give you a small insight about who Gianni Krattli is and what his drive is to search for the perfect picture.

Born 1984, grew up in a small village in the canton of Schwyz, 40km away from Zurich, the today's home base of his journeys. Already in his early years technology was one of the major interests, what had to lead to the ownership of a DSLR camera. Highspeed Photography was the entry point to photography. In this technique up to 1200fps were captured and combined into a clip. With one of this clips Gianni made it to a tv commercial in the UK.

In other words, from the start his goal was to show objects in a way in which they had rarely been seen.

During a 15 months trip around the world in the year 2010 the photographer found his true passion: Landscape photography. He especially fell in love with the remotest places like the Alaskan Wilderness or the Hawaiian lava fields. In the meantime, he already spent more than 250 days on Hawaii.

"For me the most impressive places on earth are those where nobody else is. Just me, my camera and absolute solitude."
- Gianni Krattli



Locating such places in today's population is not that easy anymore and it needs some effort. Capturing the perfect shot of a dreamlike scene with the right weather and magic light requires patience and endurance of the photographer.

One of the main interests of GIANNIKRATTLI is astrophotography. In the Swiss Alps and in the Pacific Ocean the stars sparkle extraordinary without any light pollution and there is a breathtaking vista of our home galaxy the Milky Way. Means, there is no time for sleep when it gets dark.

"The greatest feedback for a photographer: When people take a moment to enjoy the view of a picture."
- Gianni Krattli



The Milky Way is unbelievable wide and indescribable beautiful. Since the first photo I'm fascinated about it. Billions of stars form structures and colors, which are in the true sense of the word galactic! In Mai 2016 I was able to capture the core and its surrounding for the first time with a long exposure on Corsica. The result surpasses all of my pictures of our home galaxy in terms of exposure time and the details takes my breath away every single time I see the image.

Year after year I've seen the mountain range called Churfirsten on my adventures. From Lake Walensee they reach steep into the sky and seem almost impossible to conquer. These mountains are fascinating from the first encounter. From the backside the rocky landscape isn't that steep anymore but the surrounding more beautiful. They are the proud of the region Toggenburg.

In this night we spent marvelous hours in between hundreds of cows. These animals were calm and visited us a couple of times. After some cuddling the went back to sleep in the meadow. When the cow bells became silent the last clouds disappeared and the Milky Way was brightening up the sky. As mighty the Churfirsten seem to be as little they are in the universe, just like grain of sand.





The Halema'uma'u crater in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is for sure one of the most picturesque locations for taking a photo of a volcano and the Milky Way in one shot. After the sunset at the end of the chain of craters road I drove up to the Jagger Museum to see if I could take a decent shot of this unique location. This spot is breathtaking at night. I was lucky because after this crystal clear night clouds and rain approached the southern part of the island and made it impossible to see the galaxy.

On my mobile phone a message said „Welcome to Austria“, the last clouds disappeared and finally the sky was crystal clear after days of rain. I couldn't believe what spectacle I was about to see in the next hours around Lake Voralpsee in the Region of Toggenburg. Fog slowly covered the landscape and above Mount Gamsberg (2385m) the Milky Way was moving across the horizon. After a short time, the humidity was so high that my lens got hazy and it was almost impossible to shoot exposures with 30 seconds. Due to that, there was a unique side effect, Saturn and Mars appeared like galaxies in our neighborhood. I visited a lot of breathtaking sceneries in Switzerland and this one is amongst the most beautiful places.





GIANNIKRATTLI
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

This is my all-time favorite photo of the Milky Way and it was probably a once in a lifetime moment. The picture has been taken when I was invited to visit the facilities of the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT) on the big island of Hawaii. It is located at the summit of Mauna Kea at 4208m above sea level, the highest sea mountain in the pacific ocean.

Usually the rangers ask everyone to leave the summit after sunset, so was I the day before. Due to my stay at the telescope I was able to spend some quality time in absolute darkness at high altitude. Up here the air is so clear that the Milky Way is visible to the naked eye like almost no place else. Although the temperature dropped drastically after sunset to 1°C and the wind was blowing with 60km/h I was able to capture the center of our universe perfectly.

On the picture you can see the Gemini Telescope in the front and the University of Hawaii Telescope in the background.



The Andromeda Galaxy is 2.5 millions lightyears away from our solar system. Therefore, it is the closest galaxy near the Milky Way. Nevertheless, we will never be able to reach it.

On Wednesday I decided to take my star tracker on a hike to the Swiss mountains. When I was getting some sleep my camera was tracking our neighbor for 1h40min.

Many thanks to Gianni Krattli of giannikrattli.com/ for allowing us to feature his work