



Vanishing Tribes: the Omos of Ethiopia



May 11, 2019 • 11 am at 362 S. Las Palmas, LA 90048

Lynn Doran's stunning photographic images spans culture, time, and terrain to Southwest Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley and along the Omo River. She tracks the dominant tribes, where past and present co-exists, with little change for many hundreds, if not thousands of years. Of 4,000 photos taken only 150 images appear in the dramatic Omo book she will discuss. Photographs of vivid face and body painting, piercing, scarification for decorative, heroic, ritual and medicinal purposes, are exaggerated by elaborate head and hair decorations. Two of the eight tribes of the Omo Valley still use lip plates, six inches in diameter, to enhance a young girl's prospects for marriage. Carved or painted, in this region the body is an open canvas and a work of art. Sadly, what Doran documented in 2013 has ceased to exist in 2016. The dam is complete. The life line to the Omo Valley is dried up. Inevitably, neither we nor the Omo people can know what the future portends, other than more change, even possible survival.

Doran graduated with a Fine Arts degree and successfully established her own company specializing in women's athletic wear. She then became a ceramicist, a collector of tribal art, and an intrepid traveler & photographer. Her photographic eye combined with her empathic relationship with the local peoples have produced a stellar book on the Omos.

RSVP by NOON, May 9, 2019 to feelie@ucla.edu