

ART GALLERIES

STANDING UP FOR WILDLIFE

Secret messages in photographer's work highlight threats

By **Sandra Barrera**

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Examine the large-scale photographs that make up Jennifer MaHarry's collection "New Wilderness" and you'll see that there are more than just the wild dogs and cats, bears and birds of prey there.

Hidden in the compositions' rough edges are tiny words and reversed images of oil pipelines, logging, cattle ranching, pesticide sprays and other man-made threats to North America's wildlife.

"My quest is to stand up for them," she says. "I think people would care if they knew about what's going on, so I amped up the message by spelling it out. And what I'm hoping is people won't just look at the image, but they'll take a second glance and

**JENNIFER MAHARRY:
NEW WILDERNESS
OPENING RECEPTION**

When: 6:30–9 p.m. Saturday. Exhibit runs through Oct. 8.

Where: The G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice.

Tickets: \$10, including wine, hors d'oeuvres and valet with all proceeds from admission and art sales benefiting the National Wildlife Federation.

Information: 310-452-2842. www.theg2gallery.com. G2reception.eventbrite.com.

find the secret messages within the borders."

Viewers can get an up-close look when MaHarry celebrates her latest body of work with a ticketed opening reception Saturday at the G2 Gallery, where the show and art sale is on view through

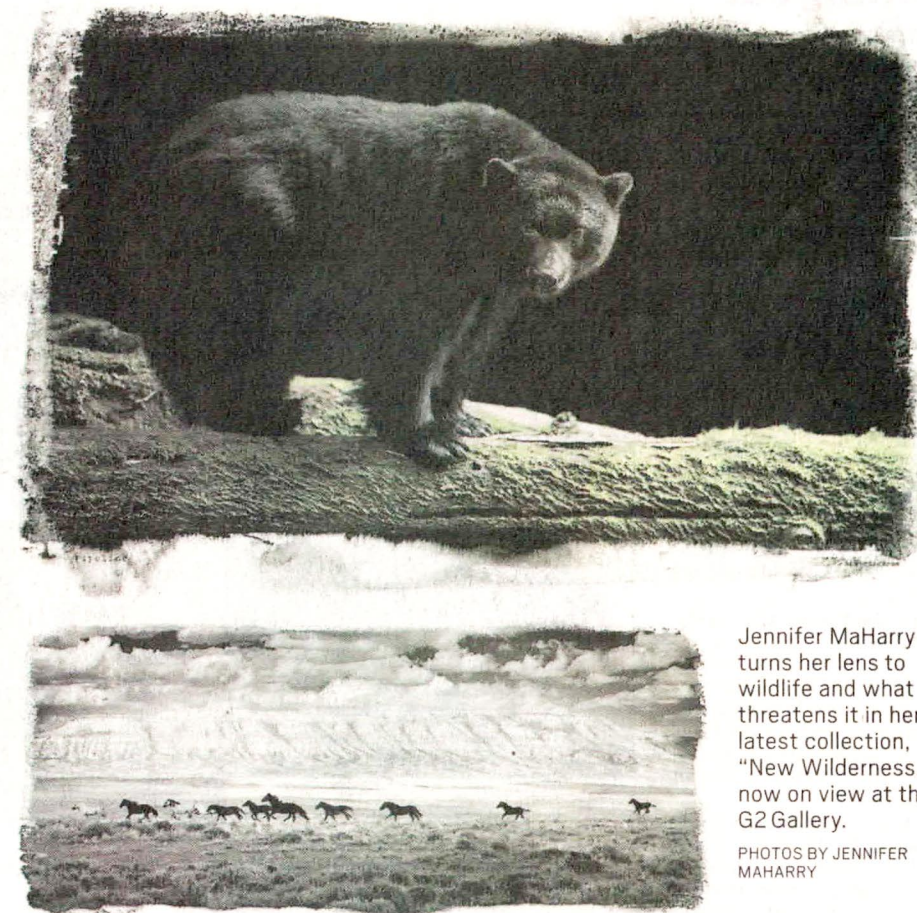
Oct. 8. All proceeds benefit the National Wildlife Federation.

The Venice-based gallery has long had a close relationship with MaHarry, says curator Monika Basse.

"Having showcased her work since 2010, we are excited for viewers to see subject matter they've come to love presented in a new and dynamic way," Basse adds.

A graphic designer for the film industry by day, MaHarry has put her talents to work for wildlife through her passion for nature photography.

She fell into the genre several years ago while on a visit to a wild horse sanctuary run by a friend. Among her earliest work are clean compositions cast in neutral tones of equines, including Mustangs rescued from a Santa Inez Valley ranch



Jennifer MaHarry turns her lens to wildlife and what threatens it in her latest collection, "New Wilderness," now on view at the G2 Gallery.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MAHARRY

and others caught up in the frenzy of Bureau of Land Management round-ups on public lands.

"Helicopters go out, and these animals just run for their lives for a couple of hours," she says. "Some of

them die. Mothers get separated from babies, and you could hear them crying for each other — it's gut-wrenching."

Inspired by these "majestic, magical, spirited creatures," she has since

broadened her focus to advocate for other imperiled animals in the wild.

As she puts it, "I'm just trying to make beautiful images that pull people in so that they care about these animals."