**ALICE FRANKLIN**

A childhood spent mostly outdoors, long summers at her grandmother’s home on Oahu Island in Hawaii and her father’s family ranch in Texas and travel in the southwest US gave Alice Franklin a spontaneous interest in nature and taught her how important is to explore the environment around us with care.

During her years studying at Cranbrook School of Design, where she attended a photography and darkroom course at the age of 17, her interest in photography grew and she began to explore expressing herself through this medium.

In the next four years she studied journalism at the University of Texas in Austin. In her last year, a studio advertising photography course triggered a passion for more creative use of the camera, and after taking her degree in 1982, she worked as assistant to a number of advertising photographers in Dallas.

In 1983-85 she attended the Brooks Institute of Photography in California to study large format photography. It was at this time that she became interested in the platinum printing process.

In July 1985 Franklin left the United States to settle permanently in Italy. She opened her first professional studio in Turin, specialising in still life and portrait photography for advertising campaigns.

In the late Eighties she began approaching photography in a more personal way, and her work on 20x25 Polaroids attracted the interest of a number of customers from the world of fashion. In 1992 she was commissioned to produce Lavazza’s first international calendar.

At this time she perfected her use of Polaroid materials, and in 1990 her *Self-portrait* produced with Polaroid and mixed media won the first prize in the Maine Photographic International Competition.

In 1993 she moved to Paris for some time. Her renewed interest in the platinum process took her to Boston to study the technique under the guidance of Sal Lopes, the famous photographer and expert on this printing process.

In 1995 she won the Polaroid first prize for *Portrait of a Violinist* in Italy. In 1997 her series of female nudes won the first prize for Technical Creativity in the International Polaroid Competition.

In 1999 Franklin was featured in an article on women photographers in “Io Donna” magazine, and she started working with botanical images and platinum prints.