

snapshots News and Views to Get You Thinking

Instructor News:



Winning Dreams

Dreams were the subject of Kev Filmore's winning entry in the 2005 Golden Light Awards, the annual photography competition organized by The Maine Photographic Workshops. The competition honors the personal projects of seven emerging and professional photographers in different genres, including

Landscape, Photojournalism, and Advertising. Filmore, a former art director and high school photography instructor at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, CT, took home the Portraiture prize for her inspiring 13-page study of teens of various social classes and ethnicities. The teens' portraits are juxtaposed with quotes on their hopes for the future. "This started out as a portraiture project of kids I knew and saw on the street, but I noticed that they all shared a similar look," says Filmore. Nikon D70 in hand, Filmore is currently continuing her project and hoping to publish a book. To see her winning entry and for more information about the next competition, visit www.goldenlightawards.com

—Maria Wakem

Nikon News:

nikondigital.com

Revamped and relaunched, Nikon Digital's Web site features a new look and all you'd ever need to know about Nikon's latest and classic products.

www.nikondigital.com



Seventh Graders Get a Break from the Books



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Anything can happen when seventh-grade students venture out into their communities with black-and-white disposable cameras. For students from Mark Twain Middle School in Venice, CA, the results revealed creativity, energy, and a careful attention to com-

position. Each student had been invited to shoot a roll of 35-mm film after a full day analyzing works in the permanent collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The analysis proved critical. "It was exciting to see them put theory into practice," said Getty Museum Educator Jeremy Glatstein.

The museum field trip was one of many activities in Community Photoworks, a three-month project organized by the Getty Education Department and 826LA. Founded by writer Dave Eggers, 826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving students' writing in local communities. Photography may not be the most obvious choice for an English classroom, but teacher Kate Kausch points out the commonalities. "Movement, focus, balance—any of these you can apply to an essay."

Community Photoworks is the first collaboration between the two organizations, and it will culminate this month in an exhibition of the students' images at the SPARC Gallery in Venice opening March 8. Will there be more photography projects like this? "We hope so," said 826LA Executive Director Pilar Perez.

View the work at artsedge.kennedycenter.org/projects/photoworks.html.

—Theresa Sotto

Web Pick: Rebel with a Cause

He's been on the road for over 71 days, traveled on more than 27 planes, and has 258 photographs (so far) to show for it. But for former CNN and NBC war correspondent Kevin Sites, it's all part of his mission to bring the realities of war to the computer screens of nearly 400 million people. This award-winning journalist who once survived capture by Saddam Hussein's Fedayeen militia recently teamed up with Yahoo! News to create "Kevin Sites in the Hot Zone" hotzone.yahoo.com, the first blog-inspired news program, which combines Sites's moving photographs and video feeds with first-person accounts of Sites's daily experiences. Equipped with high-definition digital cameras and satellite modems, his goal is to cover single-handedly every armed conflict in the world—including Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan—within one year. Sites's images puts faces with his stories, and users can learn more about each place he visits through additional links. "Just by knowing something, being aware, maybe we become better people," he wrote in an October dispatch titled "Reflections From the Hot Zone: Uganda." "Knowledge can help us to build greater empathy for everyone in our lives, not just people in Africa."

—Maria Wakem

