



PHOTO
CENTER
NW

LEARNING GUIDE

Photo Center Thesis Exhibition:
Daniel Hawkins, Chris Letcher and Patrick Names

New Work: Photo Center and Seattle University Alumni

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PHOTO CENTER THESIS EXHIBITION: DANIEL HAWKINS, CHRIS LETCHER AND PATRICK NAMES

June 3 – July 15, 2013



Patrick Names

ABOUT

We should all do what we really love, what we are passionate about. Our students bring a wealth of excitement, talent, and dreams to the classroom. Photo Center NW offers engagement, connections, collaborations, and a dynamic community for learning. We offer a stimulating and rigorous program in photography in an environment where creative energy flows, new ideas are realized, and talent emerges.

Every year the Photo Center celebrates the graduates of the Certificate in Fine Art Photography program through a comprehensive exhibition of their thesis work. We are very

pleased to present the work of our 2013 graduates – Daniel Hawkins, Chris Letcher, and Patrick Names. Thesis is the final course in the Photo Center Certificate Program and is designed so that each student may bring an extended photographic project from an initial stage to final realization. Students have an entire year to explore frameworks for building a long-term project with conceptual, visual and thematic components. These works not only mark the culmination of a year's worth of artistic practice but they also represent a new generation of Seattle-based artists.

ARTISTS

Chris Letcher's Con(Structure) explores photographic abstraction, riding the tension between what is perceived and its relation to the world. Letcher captures the variations of change, suspending the viewers between documentary and abstract reading of images. He seeks to give the viewer an experience that challenges their perception about what things "are" before they become defined or closed in specific meaning.



Chris Letcher

Absence / Presence is a personal exploration by **Patrick Names** of the mental, physical, and emotional toll of losing a parent. Through different artifacts (pictures, yearbooks, journals, etc.) he has been able to investigate the presence of his father in his life and has used photography as a medium in dealing with his absence from his father's death.



Patrick Names

For **The Water Project**, **Dan Hawkins** has been traveling to locations around our region where the water meets up with our urban environment. He then shoots the location using an 8x10 camera and develops the film in the water from that location. This is either done on site using repurposed processing tubes or back in his personal darkroom. The resulting images range from unrecognizable swatches of color to images that are only slightly shifted. By working in this way the artist allows the materials from these specific sites to have an influence on the resulting images beyond the traditional light - lens - film relationship.



Dan Hawkins

ALSO ON VIEW

NEW WORK: PHOTO CENTER AND SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI
June 3 – July 15, 2013

Along with our 2013 graduates, we are also exhibiting new work by twenty Photo Center and Seattle University past graduates. Artists include: Lisa Ahlberg, Tara Champion, Eberhard Riedel, David Edelstein, Elisa Huerta-Enochian, Eva Sköld Westerlind, Paul Ford, Daniel Gregory, Cheryl Hanna Truscott, Kim Hood, Karen Howard, Ish Ishmael, Jenn Reidel, Jolanta Kotlarczyk, Rebecca Lawrence, Kristina Moravec, David Regal, Ellen Witebsky, Loewyn Young and Antonio Ysursa.

The Alumni of our programs are a testament to our focused vision and mission as an organization. This exhibition unites several generations of contemporary artists and vital members of the national art community.



Lisa Ahlberg

CRITICAL THINKING

An artist's vision and ideas for subject matter are key in making compelling artwork. In viewing this exhibit, do you see the vision and what each photographer is trying to convey? Do you sense the artist's point of view?

Our 2013 graduates have been working on their Thesis work for a full year. If you had a year to conceive, develop, produce, and present your own body of work, what would you do, how would you do it, and what would it look like? Discuss the practice of developing a body of work.

Tara Champion is a conservation photographer with a M.S. in Biological Photography and Imaging, a B.S. in Biology, and a B.F.A. in Photography. She has combined her passion of photography with her love of conservation and biology to create a unique niche. Through photography, her work is striving to close the gap between science and the public.



Tara Champion



Tara Champion

CRITICAL THINKING

Cheryl Hanna Truscott is a former mid-wife and has a passion for doing photography projects centered on maternal-infant health issues. In 2011, she volunteered for Midwives for Haiti, an organization that educates Haitian women and men in providing prenatal care and birth assistance to their fellow Haitian sister, who too frequently either die in childbirth or lose their newborn without such care.

Do you have multiple passions? If so, can they be combined to create something unique and meaningful? If you were asked to create a project using photography and another of your passions, what would your project look like? How can you use what you are passionate about to better the world?



Cheryl Hanna Truscott



Cheryl Hanna Truscott

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Rebecca Lawrence and **Eberhard Riedel**:

Documentary photography possesses the tremendous power to visualize history, to capture the movements and tensions within societies in the images which it projects. It educates and can inspire viewers to work towards change. Both Rebecca Lawrence and Eberhard Riedel are using art in order to raise a social awareness. Rebecca's color images capture both concern and, later, joyous celebration of a group of people while Eberhard's black and white photographs portray pain, hardship, and isolation. Both photographers successfully capture the emotion of their subjects, helping the viewer to be drawn in, becoming intrigued to look at the full story. What other similarities and/or differences do you see?



Rebecca Lawrence



Eberhard Riedel

COMPARE AND CONTRAST (Continued)

Elisa Huerta Enochian and **Eva Sköld Westerlind**: Narrative photography is the idea that photographs can be used to tell a story. In comparing the work of these two photographers, the most obvious difference is that Elisa is dealing with a non-fictional narrative and Eva is creating a story of fiction with inanimate objects. Their approaches are different but the narrative they create is strong. Do you prefer one over the other? If you were to tell a story through one or a series of photos, what would your approach be? Can you make out the stories that Elisa and Eva are trying to visually express?



Elisa Huerta Enochian



Eva Sköld Westerlind

ACTIVITY

Sketch a picture of one of the photographs in the show. What do you enjoy most about the composition? Did you choose a color or black and white photograph? Why?