

Winter 2010



Literacy
Through Photography

The FotoFest Writing
and Photography Project



Students at Dulles Middle School take pictures for their first LTP project.

Featured Classroom:

Dawn Chang's 6-8th Grade ESL Class, Dulles Middle School

Dawn Chang, an ESL teacher at Dulles Middle School, was part of a large cohort of Fort Bend ISD teachers who attended the September 2009 LTP teacher training. Ms. Chang's students greeted their teacher's post-Thanksgiving introduction of the curriculum with enthusiasm – as Chang relayed one afternoon in early December, "This morning the kids were already telling me 'This is my favorite class!'"

Chang continued to explain that the addition of LTP helps break-up the school day. The program has also provided an opportunity for students to make new connections to the material they are learning in class –Chang's recent lesson on metaphor and simile found reinforcement in the LTP curriculum.

Chang closed her December 3rd class by reminding students that the "...main thing is that photography is going to help

you write...every photograph is trying to tell you a story. Think about how you can tell me about yourself through photography." Ms. Chang's students will do just this as they continue working with LTP this spring, crafting and relaying their own personal stories through the pairing of images and text.

Earn CPE Credits!

Know teachers in need of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) credits for the 2009-2010 school year? Encourage them to attend an LTP teacher training session this spring to earn their remaining hours. Trainings, which run from 9am-4pm, are currently scheduled for the following dates:

Saturday, February 13, 2010
Saturday, March 13, 2010
Saturday, April 17, 2010

For more information, please contact Kristin Skarbovig at 713-223-5522, ext.

11 or at ltp@fotofest.org.



FOTOFEST



Focus on the Biennial

With the FotoFest Biennial less than two months away, we'd like to urge teachers to consider a school visit or LTP-coordinated artist talk (see story, page 3). Running from March 12 through April 25, 2010, the FotoFest Biennial, now a 13 year tradition, attracts visitors from across the globe to FotoFest exhibition spaces, Meeting Place portfolio reviews, and a Fine Print auction with photography available from 80 internationally known artists.

This year's focus on *Contemporary U.S. Photography* features four principal exhibitions, briefly described below:

Greta Pratt, *Alice Chatman*, 2009,
Archival Pigment Print

- ***Whatever Was Splendid* curated by Aaron Schuman and on display at FotoFest at Vine Street Studios, 1113 Vine Street, Houston, TX**
Schuman's interest in the life, times, and enduring influence of Walker Evans surface in the images of the eleven exhibiting photographers: **Will Steacy, Michael Schmelling, Greg Stimac, Tema Stauffer, Jason Lazarus, Jane Tam, Richard Mosse, Craig Mammano, Todd Hido, Hank Willis Thomas, and RJ Shaughnessy.**
- ***Road to Nowhere* curated by Natasha Egan and on display at Winter Street Studios, 2101 Winter Street, Houston, TX**
The selections in Egan's exhibition concentrate on, as the curator herself states, "a repertoire of diverse but related themes including politics, surveillance, race, war, and economic insecurity," continuing to note that "while the work is oftentimes critical, a quintessentially American optimism is evident." Featured photographers include **Sheila Pree Bright, Jeff Brouws, Tim Davis, Myra Greene, Eirik Johnson, Jason Lazarus, An-My Le, Nic Nicosia, David Oresick, Trevor Paglen, Greta Pratt, Michael Robinson, Jason Salavon, Victoria Sambunaris, Christina Seely, Paul Shambroom, Greg Stimac, and Brian Ulrich.**
- ***Mediation* curated by Gilbert Vicario and on display at New World Museum; Art League, Houston; and other locations**
Vicario's selections look to "new" and emerging media as sources for exploring contemporary American culture. Artists include: **Leslie Hall, Susanne Jirkuff, Adria Julia, Kalup Linzy, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Laurel Nakadate, Sandra Valenzuela, and Emilio Chapela.**
- ***Assembly: Eight Emerging Photographers from Southern California* curated by Charlotte Cotton and Edward Robinson and on display at Williams Tower, 2800 Post Oak, Houston, TX**
As the title suggests, Cotton and Robinson feature photographers negotiating the Southern Californian context in which they work. The selected artists are: **Nicole Belle, Matthew Brandt, Peter Holzhauer, Whitney Hubbs, Matt Lipps, Joey Lehman Morris, Asha Schechter, and Augusta Wood.**

To arrange a guided tour of any of these exhibition spaces or to learn more about hosting a visiting artist in your classroom, please contact the LTP office at 713-223-5522 x. 11, or via email at ltp@fotofest.org.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum Educators Open House

Fotofest's LTP will be among 40 organizations participating in this year's Museum Educators Open House (MEOH) to be held on January 23rd. Teachers will receive 3 CPE hours for attending the event, and will have an opportunity to learn more about the various museums and organizations in the Houston area available for school tours, presentations and activities.

For more information, visit www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org

LTP Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your LTP participation for the 2009-2010 school year, it not too late! Teachers are encouraged to contact the LTP office for information about renewals, new curriculum and student exhibition at FotoFence 2010.

Evaluation Packets

Evaluation packets are available now on the FotoFest LTP website. These packets provide the LTP office will valuable information about how the LTP program is used, student participation and success, as well as information for teachers regarding participation in FotoFence 2010. You may view and download the Evaluation Packet now at www.fotofest.org or contact the LTP offices for more information.

Teachers, we need your feedback!

The LTP office is considering the reintroduction of an LTP message board where teachers can share ideas, discuss technology issues, exchange organizational techniques and exhibit student photography and writing. If you are interested please contact Sarah at 713-223-5522 ext. 12 or ltp2@fotofest.org with suggestions or more information.

Coordinator and Artist Classroom Visits

This is a reminder that currently participating LTP teachers may schedule classroom visits by the LTP coordinator as well as a professional artist. Schedule your visit now, before the spaces fill up!

LTP is now on Facebook & Twitter!

Join LTP now on facebook and twitter and share stories, post student work and meet other LTP teachers!





Each February, Literacy Through Photography (LTP) hosts its annual children's party, FotoFun, which benefits LTP's work in Houston-area schools. This year's eco-themed event, *A Valentine for the Earth*, will be held Saturday, February 6, 2010, from 1-4pm at FotoFest's Vine Street Studios.

Co-chaired by Sophie Girard and Margaret Hill, the event will feature an array of hands-on, creative, and eco-friendly activities for kids ages three to twelve, which include embossing Valentine's Day cards, making kites from recycled grocery bags, and fashioning sandals out of colorful cardboard. The \$50 ticket cost includes children's access to these and many other activities, food from Fuddruckers, and refreshments for the adult chaperones.

As FotoFest Director Wendy Watriss states, "FotoFun is LTP's key fundraising event and presents opportunities to not only sustain this important program, but to see it grow into its third decade and beyond." To contribute to this growth as a FotoFun attendee, sponsor, or volunteer, please contact Kristin Skarbovig at ltf@fotofest.org or 713-223-5522 x. 11.



Craft-making at FotoFun 2009



Kurt Tong speaks to students from the Spring Branch School of Choice



Rizwan Mirza speaks to students from the Chinquapin School

International Discoveries II Artists Visit With Local Students

During the first week of November, four *International Discoveries II* photographers – Alejandro Cartagena, Rizwan Mirza, Kurt Tong, and MiMi Youn – visited with student groups from Humble High School, Spring Branch School of Choice, and the Chinquapin School. These talks served as a platform for student exploration of a number of questions, ranging from how photographers choose what to represent to how to pursue photography as a career. Chinquapin teacher and LTP educator Liz Thornton noted that her 11th grade class's visit with Rizwan Mirza helped make sense of one aspect of the creative process - whether images happen by accident or by intent. Thornton explained that Mr. Mirza "...told the kids that he oftentimes captures his images by accident.

This really affected the students, because they understood that the artist is not always in complete control of what they produce, and photography is something mysterious but still possible for them to try."

Artists' visits will again be offered during the 2010 FotoFest Biennial, during which many internationally exhibiting photographers will be in Houston. Chung was born in China and now lives in England and Mirza is from England. The Biennial runs from March 12 through April 25, 2010. For further information, contact Kristin Skarbovig at ltf@fotofest.org.

My United States Biennial Curriculum will be available February 1st!

Currently participating LTP teachers will receive a free copy of the curriculum which focuses on an exploration of the role photographers and their images have played – and continue to play – in shaping, entrenching, and challenging assumptions about American social life and culture in the United States.

Students will be asked to reflect upon their own personal experiences as citizens of the United States in the form of writing and photography. The final projects created by students using the Biennial Curriculum will be exhibited alongside traditional LTP projects at FotoFence 2010 on Saturday May 9th.

Teachers not currently participating in LTP are welcome to purchase the *My United States* curriculum for \$50. Please contact the LTP office at 713-223-5522 ext. 11 or ltf@fotofest.org for more information or to receive a sample lesson.



Cohort teacher kYmberly Keeton

Meet the Cohort

"Once the students received their cameras, they became very intrigued with our discussions regarding photography. In our last session before the holiday break, they took photos of each other; I was amazed with their creativity and knowledge of how to work a camera. I can't wait until they see their work in the exhibition in April 2010." – kYm Keeton

kYmberly Keeton is a graduate of The University of Houston with a B.A. in English Creative Writing with minor in African-American Studies (and was awarded a Baccalaureate Degree with Honors in English-Creative Writing).

She has written six books of poetry and written numerous short stories. Keeton's first short story:

2. Butahflies. Charlie. Browne. & Painky. Lillies won the Honorable Mention Sylvan N. Karchmer Short Fiction Prize in May 2006 at The University of Houston, and was published in the *PARALLAX Journal* at Richland College in Dallas, Texas. As the former City Manager of *Rolling Out Dallas* and Entertainment Editor for the *Dallas Weekly Newspaper*, she interviewed Larenz Tate, Illyasah Shabazz, Haile Gerima, Usher, Dwele, Musiq Soulchild, Talib Qwele, Charles Stone III, and countless others in the industry. Her articles have been published in *Young People For.org*, *Atlanta Voice*, *The Washington African American Post*, *The Capitol Outlook*, *The National Society of Black Engineers*, *The Ave Magazine*, *The SacObserver.com*, *The Miami Times Online*, and *Black Chicago Online.net*. Creating her own publication entitled *Literafeelya Magazine* in 2003, featuring work on arts and politics; the magazine produced twenty-two issues online and debuted its first print issue with a grant funded by Young People For.org in November of 2007. In addition, she is the former Publisher of *Songhai News: The Black Collegiate Voice-Black Newspaper* at the University of Houston, and one of three founders of the paper. Keeton currently is working on her second novel, a Literary-Photography Arts Teacher for Houston Fotofest, a graduate student, and publishing a blog for women in their thirties.

LTP runs cohort residencies in various schools throughout the year. Visit our website at <http://literacythroughphotography.fotofest.org> for more information on scheduling a cohort residency.

If you are interested in becoming a cohort teacher contact Kristin Skarbovig at ltip@fotofest.org.

Meet the Intern By: Stephanie Gobeia



Since September of 2009, two to three times a week, (not including finals and holiday break), I work with Literacy Through Photography's program manager, Kristin, and coordinator, Julie, where I perform an array of jobs.

The list of responsibilities as an LTP intern includes: making copies of curriculum, preparing curriculum binders, LTP contact maintenance, editing or tinkering with logo designs, taking and uploading pictures, stuffing envelopes, keeping inventory of cameras and printers, helping during teacher workshops/ training sessions, reorganizing LTP and at times the comic relief. I will raise my right hand and swear to tell the truth, I have enjoyed every bit of the work. As a budding adult I feel like I'm in the right place at the right time;

Aside from the work experience, I have also seen how LTP works in schools, I have viewed student's photographs, collages, and writing and noticed how LTP has stimulated language arts and creative talents among students. Although my time as an intern will soon be finished, I plan to keep volunteering, working, and supporting LTP after I graduate.

Quick Facts about LTP intern Stephanie Gobeia

Age: 23

Hometown: South Houston, TX

Education: University of Houston - Photography/Digital Media Senior

Why did you apply to be a FotoFest's Intern?

I had visited FotoFest for a few different exhibitions throughout college and really loved the work I saw. When I found out about internships and about LTP, I set my goal on interning for them.

What is your favorite part about being part of the FotoFest Staff?

It's the best job I've EVER had. I am proud to be a part of an organization that does great things for the community and students.

Favorite Writer:

John Cheevers - I love his imagination and the development of his characters.

Favorite Photographer:

Currently my biggest influence is Houston's own Cara Barer. I saw her work, and was completely enthralled! And new to my list: Mimi Youn, a Korean based photographer who works with Polaroids. She showed at FotoFest's *International Discoveries II*, and I fell in love with her work.

Advice for the Next LTP Intern:

Ask for help if you don't know how to use the office copier, it actually collates pages! And don't forget to return the restroom key.

Interested in becoming an LTP intern? Please submit a resume and letter of intent to ltip@fotofest.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

Museum Educator's Open House (MEOH)

Saturday, January 23rd, 2010

FotoFun 2010

Saturday, February 6th, 2010

FotoFence 2010

Opening: Sunday, May 9th, 2010

Runs through: Wednesday, May 19th, 2010

Posters Due: Friday, April 23rd, 2010