

2012/13 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographers Alliance/ASMP Award



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Photography
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After working with an architect in Austin and living in Lima, Peru for a while, I am determined to go back to school and study my passion, photography, at the age of 26. I remember my first camera was a pink Barbie one—a flat, elongated one with the flash on the side. I loved to organize my negatives and label them all so I could go back and print the pictures I wanted. I enjoyed filling albums and writing captions for each photo. Somehow, in small ways, a future passion of mine was evolving.

For years I have been hindering my desire to study photography, thinking I would be happy doing it on the side. I thought I could learn and improve my techniques on my own, which I have tried to do to certain degree. However, there is a sense of emptiness that lingers when I see people dedicating themselves full-time to any artistic career they feel passionate about. At that point I think, "Why can't I do the same?" I feel an increasing need to learn and dedicate to it professionally.

I do know that I will face challenges. In my country, Peru, photography is still mostly seen as a hobby and not something one can make a living from. I, on the other hand, would be happy if I could work doing something I truly enjoy, such as capturing people's expressions or recording architectural changes in my city for



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a living. To me, that is one of the most amazing gratifications. I want to inspire others in my country to do the same, to trust their talents and to not give in to their fears or worry about not being able to earn a living out of them. I also want to teach photography in the future and inspire students with the same drive and determination that I have right now.

What I have accomplished and done so far is just a small fraction of what I could do. I feel as though I have not yet scratched the surface of my full potential – perhaps not only in photography but in other artistic fields as well– and I know that if given the opportunity I can make a difference.

Perhaps some might think I should pursue a Masters in some other field, one that would allow me to secure a job even during the most difficult of times; but I know that if I do that, I will never stop feeling like the shell buried on the beach. It is time for me to go and pursue this dream.

