

# 2007/08 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Award



**TANIYA DELVA**

Photography  
Freshman  
Parsons The new School for Design

**Art has been an influence** in my life since I was old enough to hold a pair of scissors. I remember assigning myself mini art projects at six, when I was still an only child and bored with my free time. I made puppets out of scrap paper, sewed Barbie doll clothes out of old pillowcases and constructed mobiles out of the cardboard at the end of the toilet paper rolls. I used what I had around me to release my energy.

Sadly, my mother didn't recognize my early dedication to art. She felt math and science were more valuable skills to have than developing my artistic tendencies. She bought me chemistry workbooks from the local Target and registered me in math classes over the summer, despite my pleas to attend art camp. As time went on, my mother and I became contentious. We grew apart quickly, which eventually led to me moving out and being on my own prematurely. This drastic change affected my schoolwork. My effort, grades and motivation declined and my life became inconsistent.

I looked for an outlet to express my depression at this time of detriment. The photography classes at school made my creative energy surge and I was inspired to evaluate my situation differently. I wanted to make beauty out of my sadness.



**Worldstudio**  
FOUNDATION



*the professional association for design*

**TANIYA DELVA**

Photography

Photography got me out of my room and into the public. I started attending rallies, marches, human rights meetings and community discussions. I became very involved with all of the neighborhoods of Boston. I volunteered for after school and summer art programs that kept the youth off of the streets and out of gang activity. I grew socially aware and my work grew with me. It became street portraits and social documentary. It was b-boy events and community open mics. It was the happy drunk in front of CVS, the trips to the corner bodega, the funeral for Ray and human frailty. I was discovering my home all over again and using objects around me to express myself. My photography became my energy drink, and each frame more imploring and exciting than the last.



I feel I have already been using my art to contribute to the community. I love it more than anything and I will continue it for as long as possible.

I am going to art school now so that I can get the education and foundation I need to open my own art program to employ the under represented youth in the city and victims to low income lifestyles. My program will be outlets to teens when they feel they don't have a voice in a world run by corporate and money driven people, or the hardships they have to endure in their neighborhood. The art they produce will be sold to provide supplies to the program and donated to public schools and neighborhood businesses to beautify the community. We will do large projects like painting over the graffiti stained brick buildings and documenting local public events with photography, then hanging the finished projects in galleries.

