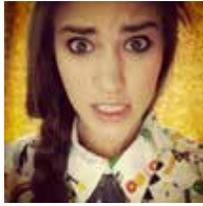


# 2014/15 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographers Alliance Award



**ESTHER YOUNG**

Photography  
Freshman  
School of Visual Arts



Art has always been an active presence in my life. At home the walls are covered in artwork, both that of professional artists and our own. My parents value art and consider it to be essential to an inspirational life. As a result, I have cultivated both an appreciation for art and an eye that allows me to either detect objects of aesthetic quality or select the strongest piece in a gallery show.

Much of my love for art has also come from nature. I grew up surrounded by woods, fields and wildlife. We have had a wide variety of domestic animals at home, such as chickens, cats, dogs, and my brother's tortoises, tarantulas and lizards. Having spent so much time outdoors has given me an understanding and respect for the beauty of nature, which I want to preserve.



I remember looking through a *National Geographic* magazine as a child and being shocked by pictures of rhinos that had been slaughtered for their horns. I was saddened that people could have such little regard for life. Moreover, I wanted



Worldstudio  
FOUNDATION



the professional association for design

**ESTHER YOUNG**

Photography



to stop this senseless cruelty. From that moment, I decided to make my mark by promoting respect and appreciation for animals. I started volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center. Something powerful occurs when an animal begins to trust you. A sense of responsibility develops, which, in turn, creates a deeper bond.



Over the years I've dabbled in many art forms like still-life drawing, painting, printmaking, pottery, calligraphy, sculpture and photography. Photography is how I best express myself, particularly through portraiture. There is something personal, even uncomfortable, about taking a portrait. I enjoy capturing someone or something at their best or worst, or showing a previously unseen aspect of my subject. When getting up close, I'm intent on catching a piece of character that will make the photograph strong. Recently, I've been photographing rescued horses and mules at Equine Advocates in Chatham, NY. They've used some of my images in their promotional materials and display them in their educational center.

I plan to intern in the photography department at a magazine to gain more insight and experience in the working world. I will continue to photograph wildlife. We take nature for granted every day, oblivious that we may be negatively impacting life around us. I want to promote a positive change for our planet, which may require taking shocking photographs, much like those of the rhinos with their horns cut off. But that's what makes an impact. I want to evoke the same reaction I had when I first saw the images of slaughtered rhinos, because, ideally, people will be motivated to take their own unique actions to preserve the diverse beauty in our world.

