

2014/15 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographers Alliance Award

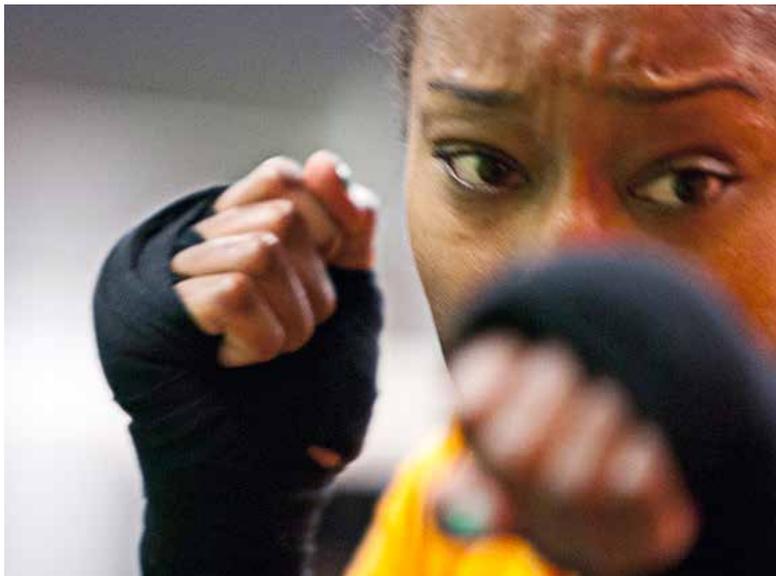


MALAIKA KAMBON
Photography
Freshman
Academy of Art University



What pushes a photojournalist to tell a story with photographs, to take the pulse of the people without having to think about it first? To show their lives as they live them through pictures? To repeatedly bring passion and quality to work that is obviously a labor of love? To capture the eloquence of community and a sense of solidarity from the perspective of a sensitive Black female photojournalist, and to become an independent photojournalist-sportswriter-athlete in a field where there are not many African women at all?

In 2002, I couldn't speak above a soft whisper. My first foray into the corporate working world left me with severe vocal chord dysfunction as a direct result of a potentially lethal on-the-job chemical exposure. This condition persisted until 2009. But in 2003, after struggling to become well enough, I was assisted by the African-American Scholastic Program at City College of San Francisco to enter New College of California, where I graduated at the top of my class and completed my BA in Humanities in 2006. However, I couldn't return to radio news casting. I couldn't talk audibly.



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MALAIKA KAMBON

Photography



The extreme Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) I have is permanent and disabling. But I'd fallen in love with photojournalism. By the end of 2008, I began submitting articles to the *San Francisco Bay View* newspaper, focusing specifically on African people in the Diaspora.

Today, despite the hardships of a disability budget, I use photojournalism to combat the extreme prejudice against people whose disabilities are virtually invisible. I've photographed and written about numerous martial arts events, while simultaneously becoming an AAU national champion in Tae Kwon Do. I'm now a special correspondent and photographer for the *International Tae Kwon Do Times Magazine*.

Documenting community events in the Northern California Bay Area and globally for the *San Francisco Bay View* is one of the highest of honors. Examples of my work can be found in print and online covering a wide range of topics, from professional athletic events to politics. In the finest traditions of African women photojournalists, being awarded the Luci S. Williams Houston Scholarship in Photojournalism by the Bay Area Black Journalists Association, in 2011, heightened my commitment to excellence. Why do I want this scholarship? Simply, and with depth of feeling, I want to become a master of my craft and to continue to serve my community. If I'm selected as an AIGA Scholarship recipient, this will help me achieve this goal.

