

# 2012/13 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographers Alliance Award



**MICHELLE MOBLEY**

Photography  
Freshman  
Savannah College of Art & Design



Please don't look at me. I am a quiescent with erythrophobia. I am afraid to look at you and everyone else. I am afraid to speak. Do you know why I bring this camera to my face? It's not just because I like the way the shutter sounds, or the way everything appears through the viewfinder. No, this camera is my shield. This camera is my voice. And maybe you cannot hear me—maybe my words are too soft amidst the winding of the film—but believe me, within the edges of each frame lies a dialogue. I do not have a language with words but a language with photographs.

The intricacy of spoken speech consumes me. I desire everything foreign – music, film, illustration, photography. They speak to me on a level beyond verbal communication. I discovered the romanticism of the French New Wave, director Jean-Luc Godard, actress Anna Karina, and singer Françoise Hardy. Later, I developed a much heavier attraction for Asia, falling in love with the films of Wong Kar-Wai, Yasujiro Ozu, Satoshi Kon and Hayao Miyazaki; the portraits by Araki Nobuyoshi, Shoji Ueda and Kishin Shinoyama, and the illustrations by Takato Yamamoto, Macoto Takahashi and Yasunari Ikenaga. I listened to verses in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian and Thai. Everything about Asia captivates my curiosity, extending my perception of beauty into an entirely new culture. I want to influence the East just as it has influenced me.



Worldstudio  
FOUNDATION



the professional association for design

**MICHELE MOBLEY**

Photography

Currently, my work encompasses themes of femininity, nature, death and identity, but I desperately seek to broaden these topics to bring forth a much more personal and profound message of interaction, particularly between women in Asia. With my work, I want to define a new artistic language; I want to tell stories without uttering a sound. I will travel to Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, India – communicating with female natives through the lens of my thirty-five millimeter. We need not words to understand one another, only the single interaction of capturing a moment. Stories should never be limited to those that can speak the same written language. With visual art, language is universal, and that is what I want my art to be. I want to convey the stories of these Asian women, whether happy or sad, through the truthfulness of a photographic print. And by capturing these Eastern narratives, I will imprint my own story, a story of newfound communication, insight and diminishing fear.

