

2007/08 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Mohawk Paper Honorable Mention



MARILYN MONTUFAR

Photography
Junior
School of Visual Arts



My major is fine art photography. My experience in this field began in high school, in an after-school program which offered the basics in photography. I instantly found myself fascinated with the medium. I didn't know much about art or about colleges that taught art, and I didn't have anything remotely close to a portfolio. I decided to enroll in East Los Angeles College as a photography major, and to take it from there.

I worked as a lab technician assistant before taking on a position working with children who reside in low-income communities. A strong interest in photography remained, but I began to look into other resources for challenges outside the comfort zone of school and job. This led me to apply for the Art Center School of Design ACAN scholarship, which I received. Attending this institution forced the development of a new direction and language, which puts emphasis on the constant exploration of the photographic series.



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MARILYN MONTUFAR

Photography

Most of these images deal with social commentary in relationship to gender roles, while others deal with the intimacy of a naked body. When I first began creating photographs, I never imagined that creating an image through a camera, would lead to critical studies and discussions. It was not until this past year when I gained some insight into the history and art of photography, that I realized the powerful role I could play in creating changes in society. This realization, has led me to create images which do not only speak to me, but I hope will also impact a greater society.



Although my concentration in photography is portraiture, recently I have been invited to explore the subject of the urban landscape with the first Getty photography outreach program. It was through the study of the urban landscape that I was finally able to understand the many relationships in art photography. The lesson I learned—how an urban landscape can be a beautiful portrait without a human being, and how this same image preserves the presence of humanity.

Growing up in a low-income, single parent household, I have been fortunate enough to receive the support from such organizations as the Getty. The experience of attending college has further developed a passion for educating individuals from all walks of life, regardless of financial hardships. The privilege of gaining a college education, has taught me the important role education plays in improving my life, and how this growth can aid the lives of many individuals who may not have this same opportunity.

Working with children who reside in a low-income community, has increased my awareness of how important it is to give back to your own community. My goal is to be a full-time artist while sharing my education, knowledge, and experiences with a broader community by teaching at a college. Through my growth as an artist, I realize that photography is not just an image, but can also be treated as a way of reconstructing society.

