

2007/08 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Bennett Peji Award

Coyne Family Foundation Award



DANIEL RESTREPO

Photography
Freshman
Parsons The New School for Design



Growing up I was surrounded with photos of Colombia, where both my parents were born and raised before they moved to the US, and the striking images always left an impression. Moments in time were captured; everything from a simple laugh to hard times to the scenery that laid the backdrop for all these events. It wasn't until my Sophomore year of high school that I picked up a camera myself. I started with taking pictures of my friends and myself on outings around the city and then to photographs of my surroundings and the things I held dear to my heart. Soon I started to realize that a photograph simply isn't as easy as pressing a button and producing a pretty picture.

There's so many technical aspects and conceptualizing a creative idea behind a photograph that it really takes someone with a "photographer's eye" to catch those special moments and record them in time. It's my journal without words, my thoughts spread out through images. I found that a good photo simply doesn't end with planning it and capturing the image. It goes much further than that in post-processing. I started to think "what if?" What if I could turn this into a profession? What if I could make a living doing something that I love? Uncertainty was no longer a question. I want to create an image that is so aesthetically pleasing and moving to those who see it that they can place themselves within the image and conjure up their own memories. I want to create something that strips me to my barest bone for the world to see. I want to create for the sake of creating. Pursuing this path and receiving top level training at a qualified school, I believe, will prepare me to enter the world of the arts face first and get my name out there.



DANIEL RESTREPO

Photography

I'll always remember what my father would tell me growing up, "don't you ever forget where your history is; where your family comes from." It taught me to look at people and appreciate their heritage and understand the vast diversity that fills the world. I'm proud of where I come from and through my pictures I try and represent pride of culture and history (specifically my trek through Spain photographing the natives and submersing myself in the Spanish culture from which some of my family descends). Being a young gay Hispanic male offers much diversity and allows me to see the world through many different outlets. I've faced oppression, I've faced liberation, from good to bad, I hope that through my photography people can take something away from it and interpret what I have to say and incorporate it into their own lives.

A favorite thing of mine is to teach younger students, typically in schools where the arts funding has been cut drastically, the fundamentals of photography and the beauty that comes with it. They deserve a chance as well and if I can be that person to show them, I'm more than humbled. I plan to further this education outreach as I move across the country from Arizona to New York as I complete my undergraduate degree.

