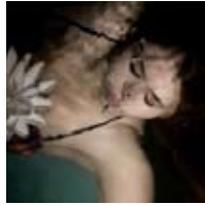


2010/11 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographer's Alliance



YASMIN ALISHAV
Photography
Junior
Art Center College of Design



I recently visited Peru, the country where I was born, for the first time in 18 years to volunteer with earthquake reconstruction. Seeing the tragic state of the people in Pisco, the city hardest hit in the 2007 catastrophe, was shocking. They still live in shanty towns due to lack of funds and infrastructure. My parents and I emigrated from Peru to Israel, and we lived there for almost four years, making Hebrew my second language and Spanish my first. We left Israel in 1991 during the Gulf War. I am so fortunate my parents decided to immigrate to California. I know it's because they wanted the best possible opportunities for me, and I often think about making them proud, and inching closer to our common goal: my success.

I knew no other Peruvian immigrants as a child, my classmates always at first thought Peru was in Mexico, and being Jewish further separated me from the other Latin children. In high school I won awards in photography and became a student



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Photography



tutor. After high school, while still developing my portfolio, I attended culinary school, which I completed, and it changed the direction of my photography forever.

I'm extremely fortunate to have parents as loving and as caring as I do, who encourage me to be an artist and admire my idealism. I've enjoyed my time at Art Center College of Design immensely, and the only obstacle keeping me from graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is the deterioration of my family's finances. My father's business depends on new construction contracts, and in the current economic climate he might have to shut down altogether.

The circumstances of my upbringing and my experiences as a traveler have brought me to my unique worldview. The question of identity is recurring throughout my work. My photographs express my passion for child development in "Television," a series that depicts children who appear to be static and catatonic in front of a screen. "Grotesque: Food in America" expresses my horror at the reality of factory farmed meat and dairy products, but on a tabletop. In the future I hope to work on campaigns that bring Israeli and Palestinian children together, and to change the way advertisements target children under the age of five. What drives me to photograph is the desire to question the status quo in a totally original way and inspire my viewers to change their minds. Thank you for considering me for this award.

