

2006/2007 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Kraus Family Foundation Award



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Film and video

Graduate

University of Texas at Austin

When facing extreme poverty—which millions of people suffer around the world—what is the usefulness of film? What could be the purpose of my life as a filmmaker? What could I do to change things? In two years I directed nine documentaries that were able to perform positive changes on local and regional levels and provoked audience's amazing responses. I am still proud of the fact that I rejected job offers with better wages during those years. After winning a Fulbright Fellowship I was admitted at the Master of Fine Arts program at the Radio, Television and Film Department in the University of Texas at Austin. My first two films won awards at a local festival. The third, currently in post-production, is a personal documentary about the life of Jorge Eduardo Eielson, one of the most important South American artists alive. My final thesis film will be about astronomical practices in a small village in the Southern Andes. I want to stress the use of traditional knowledge—so despised by Western civilization—as medium of adaptation and survival. In the United States I realized I do not only want to produce and direct films: I also want to teach how to do it. I've already had rewarding experiences as Teaching Assistant of courses related to film and documentary direction, which has led me to believe that this would also be a fulfilling occupation when I return to my home country after my graduation. I strongly believe that independent cinema and documentary filmmaking are the perfect fields where social issues converge with storytelling, aesthetics and personal responsibilities. Only through creativity and commitment we can create good films which can give a sense of hope to younger generations.