

# The In-Sight Photography Project, Inc.

Issue Number Fourteen — Fall 2008

45 Flat Street, Suite 1, Brattleboro, VT 05301

www.insight-photography.org

802 251-9960

## Fall Classes

*Classes are 10 weeks long*

### Intro to Black & White Photography

*with Tim Callahan*

Thursdays 6-8pm starting Sept. 25

Students will learn how to take meaningful B&W pictures, process film and make their own prints in the darkroom. They will learn the elements of a good photograph and develop a unique way of seeing.

### People, Places, Things

*with Clayton Salem*

Mondays 4-6pm starting Sept. 22

For intermediate to advanced students. This class will introduce new shooting and darkroom techniques. Students will practice portrait, location and architectural photography.

### Digital Photography

*with Stephen Dybas*

Wednesday 4-6pm starting Sept. 24

For individuals with some digital experience. Students will increase their understanding of the digital camera, explore Photoshop workflow and current printing techniques. Students will develop their own in-depth projects to work on.

### Social Activism and Photography

*with Sophia Lacava-Bohanan*

Thursdays 4-6pm starting Sept. 25

Photography has long been a powerful tool for affecting social change. This class will introduce students to key photographers, styles and techniques as they complete their own photo projects.

***In-Sight offers classes to area youth ages 11-18 regardless of their ability to pay and provides all equipment and supplies when needed.***

## Tenth Annual Silent Auction

During the month of October, The In-Sight Photography Project's Tenth Annual Silent Auction and Exhibit will be on display at the Vermont Center for Photography. The auction represents more than simply In-Sight's largest annual fundraiser; it represents an outpouring of support—from the local community, the photographic community, and the widespread community of In-Sight supporters—for In-Sight's mission of offering photography classes to Vermont youth, regardless of their ability to pay.



Steven Brock

For ten years, an illustrious collection of photographers from across the nation has donated some of its finest artwork to the auction, and year after year the event continues to raise more money for In-Sight programming. The month-long exhibit has also been embraced by Brattleboro: the opening and closing receptions are packed to the gills with curious community members and art enthusiasts. The show remains one of the Vermont Center for Photography's best-attended shows each year. In 2007, for the first time, In-Sight launched an auction website, helping to raise the auction's revenue by 30%, and making the event fully accessible online. The online expansion brought the program a new level of exposure and allowed In-Sight supporters all over the world to participate in the event.

This year's auction promises to continue the success of years past. The collection of work offers a wide range of images, donated by former In-Sight students and volunteers and locally, nationally, and internationally known photographers.

A sampling of the notable artists contributing to this remarkable exhibit: David Hilliard's engaging panoramic work depicts the everyday moments of life in a new light. Using multiple

*continued page 7*



David Hilliard, original in color

# Volunteer Spotlight

*Interview with In-Sight Alumna and Volunteer Helen Jones*

*What classes did you take as an In-Sight student? What do you remember most about your time here?* I started taking classes at In-Sight at the beginning of my junior year in high school. It was an intro class, and I loved it so much I took one every semester till college, even summers! I think I took pretty much every class offered. Other than the basics, I remember taking an alternative processes class, and working on “the chair” project, where we took a 4 x 5 camera out into the community to take portraits (a lot like what Exposures does). That gave me my first taste of 4 x 5, which is now my favorite format. I also took an incentive class where I worked towards earning a camera, which was awesome because it meant I no longer had to borrow one every semester. Part of the requirements for that class was to do volunteer hours, which got me more involved in the program as a whole.

*You’ve also worked at In-Sight as a volunteer. What was it like to come back as an instructor?* For me that transition to volunteering was totally fluid. In high school, as a student, I volunteered to run labs and other things, starting with the hours I did for the incentive class. Then I assisted teaching a class with Nora Zale who had been my teacher. Then the year after a fellow student, Zac Stevens, and I co-taught another class; later I taught a summer workshop alone. I just had such a great time at In-Sight I wanted to stay involved as much as possible. I wanted to share what I had learned.

*How did you come to study photography at Mass Art? What was this experience like?* When I started applying to college I tried to think of what classes I liked best, and what I would want to spend a lot of time doing (at least 4 years) and I decided I would like to spend it taking pictures. So I applied to art schools, and one of them was MassArt, which is a great school (also the only public art school in the country) and that’s where I ended up going. College is an amazing time because you really can throw yourself into one thing. There are all these people around you who are doing the same thing, and also tons of resources, and supplies, and feedback, that you may never get your hands on again.

*What brought you back to Brattleboro after your studies?* I needed to finish two more classes for my degree, so instead of staying in Boston I thought I would come home and try to save some money and take my last classes at Greenfield Community College (GCC). I had known a lot of people from MassArt who started out at GCC, and I had heard great things about the photo department there, so I thought I would check it out.

*Since finishing school, how have you continued to pursue photography?* I just keep trying to make pictures, and see shows, and talk to other people who are also into photography. That’s why places like In-Sight are so wonderful. They give you a place to make work, and a community of people to exchange ideas with, and keep you motivated.

*Where have you shown your work?* Since getting back from school I have shown at Through the Music Gallery, Hooker-Dunham Gallery, and Vermont Center for Photography (VCP) group shows.



Hawaiian Vacation and The Rowers by Helen Jones, originals in color

*Your work deals with the interaction between people and place and between past and present. How does photography allow you to explore these themes?* In our everyday living we make marks on our environment, in both large ways, like the massive highway systems and grids of cities and houses we put on the world, and small ways, like the scratches we might leave on our work desk, or the mark where a favorite rocker hits the wall. Even as our daily routines change, these marks last beyond that. In my photography I like to look at the evidence of the past on the spaces we live in. The more these little clues make me wonder the more I am drawn to photographing them.

*What are you working on presently?* I don’t really have a “project” right now, I just bought a medium format camera so I am trying to get used to it and see what kind of projects it might inspire.

*How has your relationship to photography evolved since you first started making pictures?* I am sure the process and way I think of pictures has changed over time. I take more time to take pictures now.

*What’s next for you?* I really don’t know, but I hope to be taking pictures for a long time yet.

*What advice do you have for current In-Sight students who hope to pursue photography academically or professionally?* Just to take advantage of all the opportunities you have as a student.

## In-Sight/Hospice Collaboration Helps Youth Cope with Grief

The death of a parent is difficult at any age, but can be particularly traumatic for teens. For the fourth consecutive summer, In-Sight Photography joined forces with the Brattleboro Area Hospice in July to offer bereaved teens an opportunity to creatively express feelings associated with loss.

“Creative Ways to Deal with Grief,” a two-day workshop for teens who have experienced the loss of a parent, offered participants a variety of ways to understand and express their experiences of grief and how their lives have changed as a result of their losses.

Students shared photos of their parents, made photo collages using magazine photos, completed written exercises, and used digital cameras to complete photography “assignments” exploring memories, feelings and the changes they have experienced. Each participant also created a “Memory Box,” a place to keep special mementos of the person they had lost. Working with both family photos and photos they had taken during the workshop, students used the collage process to decorate the boxes.

The workshop gave participants the opportunity to both explore the experience of grief, and to meet others who have had a similar experience. It is hoped that In-Sight Photography and Brattleboro Area Hospice will continue to work together in making “Creative Ways to Deal with Grief” an ongoing offering. For information on upcoming workshops, contact Elizabeth Ungerleider at 254-8144.



photo by a workshop participant

## One-Week Intensive

In July, for the second summer in a row, In-Sight offered its popular “One-Week Intensive” course, designed to expose students to alternative photographic processes. Throughout the week, four different volunteer teachers led students in activities including image transfers, large format photography, Photoshop collage, photograms, and pinhole photography. The class saw beginning photo students working side-by-side with some of In-Sight’s most accomplished students on solo and collaborative projects. As the week progressed, each participant pushed the limits of traditional photography to create more interesting and experimental work.



Clayton Salem

## Exploring Southern Vermont

In July and August, In-Sight students participated in a course called “Exploring Southern Vermont.” Longtime In-Sight volunteer teacher Tim Callahan lent the class his expertise of photography and nature, leading the group on hiking and canoeing trips to places like Jamaica State Park and the Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The class also spent time in the darkroom, perfecting images that capture the abundant natural beauty of Vermont. But the real challenge (and fun) came while shooting in the field: “I found myself lying on the ground a lot, getting dirty...to be able to get more interesting shots,” said student Laisa Bellomo-Johnson.



Tim Callahan

## THANK YOU

The students, staff, and board of directors thank the following for their support over the past 6 months.

### Exposures Donors

Andrew Flach  
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Special thanks to the individuals who have donated their time and resources.

# Exposures 2008

This summer participants in the Exposures program took to the road (or, more accurately, to the skies, the rails, the roads, and in many instances, their feet) for a different kind of adventure. The cross-cultural youth arts program set out in new directions, in its sixth year, as a small group of youth and staff from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the Navajo Nation in Arizona, New York City, and southern Vermont spent a month traveling together in search of the similarities and differences in the landscapes, cultures and communities of not one, but three of the locations participants call home.

The program began as travelers from each participating region came together with additional local youth in Pine Ridge, Exposures' host community of the past five years. However this summer the experience in Pine Ridge was the first phase in a creative expedition spanning from the open plains of the reservation in South Dakota to the packed streets and subways of New York and finally to the distinctive green and rolling hills of southern Vermont.

In each of these places the Exposures travelers were joined by local youth, friends and volunteers who shared their art, their experience, resources, facilities, tastes in food, and local secrets. They introduced participants to the area and supported the group's creative work through activities leading from the Badlands to beaches, from monu-



Sierra Ward

ments to museums, from the darkroom to the studio, and from farms to the fine art press. As the itinerary unfolded, participants and hosts took their turn offering their expertise as to the most appropriate back road routes, the basics of subway navigation, the history of Wounded Knee or of graffiti at 5 Pointz, not to mention where to find the best deal, the best sneakers and of course, the best photographs.

Horse riders and fancy dancers in Batesland; kids at play on the pow wow grounds in Oglala, in the parks of Pine Ridge and in the hydrants of Harlem; passersby at the corner of 125th and Lenox, outside of the Food Co-op and along Main Street in Brattleboro—all were the stuff of photographs made along the way. Participants used 4x5 cameras with Polaroid



portraits by Exposures Participants working in group activities

positive/negative film to offer free portraits to many of those they met in each community. With these, their digital cameras and Holgas, the Exposures group began to create a document connecting the land and cityscapes, faces and personalities of their experience traveling across geographic and cultural borders.

At the close of their time in each location the Exposures participants hosted a community event and presentation of the images they had created, in each instance building on what had come before to finally end with a selection filling the walls of the River Garden at Brattleboro's August Gallery Walk. These images and more have made their way into an archive telling a story of the journey of Exposures 2008. Look for a collection of the work on the Exposures website, and while you are there, sign up to receive notice of traveling exhibits coming your way throughout the year. [www.exposuresprogram.org](http://www.exposuresprogram.org)



Misra Walker

## Participant Reflection

“When I first went on to the airplane my thoughts were rushing not knowing exactly what is going to happen in a month and what 8 girls can bring out from each other. It was also a chance to grow and use photography as a translator to understand society and this was strictly my purpose of the program. When we first landed I was the first out of the airplane in Rapid City (I felt like Neil Armstrong, one step on the moon, one step for mankind.) The sun was beginning to set. When we were driving from the airport to the reservation it was 2 hours earlier than it is in NYC so I was beat. The days started to pass by and I was able to explore the land during free time. I wasn't so much in amazement but I had a deeper connection being able to relate to the life styles of living in the south Bronx compared to Pine Ridge. I love the traditions, culture and their pride. It is rare to see a family in NYC that stays true to their values and it's even more rare to see a community that shares that same belief. Later in the week I met people that shared the same personality that reminded me of my friends and elders that felt like an extended family, and they came off like my grandparents, very caring. It was easier to feel comfortable and it felt like home even more. The days felt shorter and went by even faster. 10 days seemed like nothing and when it was time to go it was harder to leave. Pine Ridge had stolen my heart.”

—Exposures 2008 Participant  
from New York City



Jeanne John



Chenoa Chatter

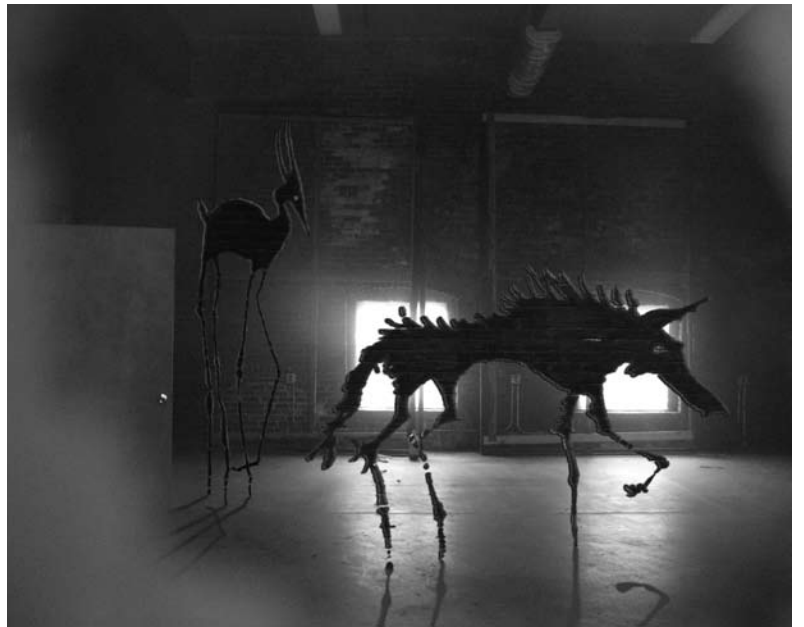


Summer Christensen



Margret Weinberg

# Student Gallery



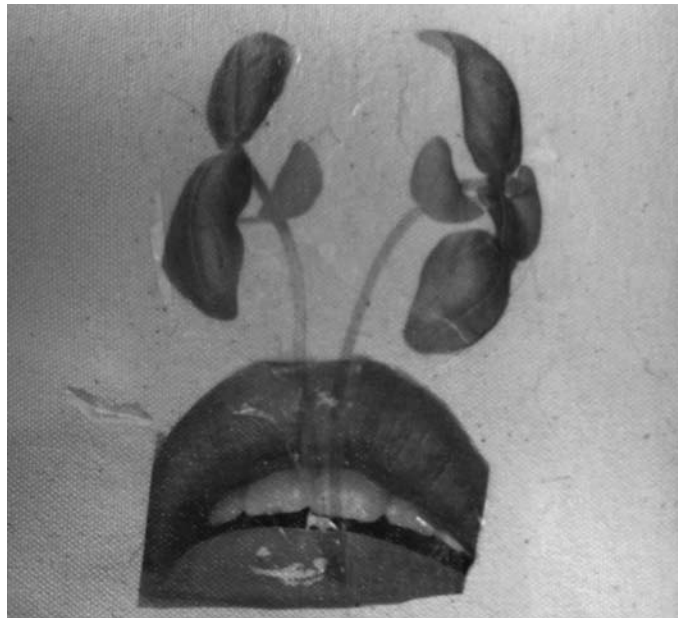
Cooper Feiner Homer



Leah Silverman



Shaunessey Sanborn



Kellie Schiller



Jonah Nigro



Lindsay Mintik



Charlotte Maxwell



Lilianna Susskind

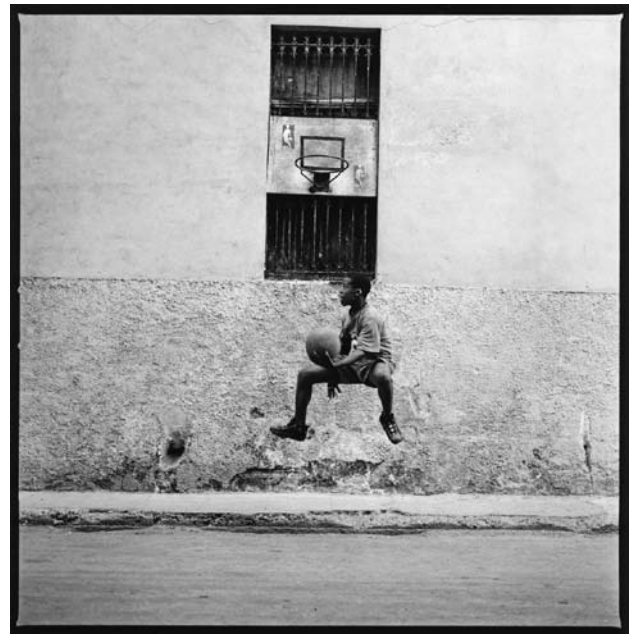
Auction continued from page 1 panels for one photograph, the Yale School of Art MFA graduate and recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, guides the viewer through the image, exposing subtle details of the scene. His work is featured in the collections of The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Carl Chiarenza's abstract, modernist black and white photographs encourage the viewer to spend time observing the delicate details of each image. Considered to be among the second generation of major American photographers, his work has been refined to perfection over the course of his forty plus years examining composition and design in photography.

Steven Brock has traveled the world taking insightful and timeless portrait and landscape images in mystical places. The former Vermonter has published work in *The New Yorker* and *The San Francisco Chronicle* and held solo exhibitions across the country.

In-Sight invites the public to an opening reception during gallery walk on Friday, October 3, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Vermont Center for Photography (VCP), located next door to In-Sight's facility at 49 Flat Street in Brattleboro. Gallery hours from October 3-30 will be Monday-Thursday 1-5 pm, Friday 2-7 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5 pm. The auction will close on Thursday, October 30, following a reception from 5:00 until 8:00 pm, during which final bids can be made. Please show your support for In-Sight by bidding on photographs, or simply viewing the work, in person or online at [www.auction.insight-photography.org/](http://www.auction.insight-photography.org/)

Proceeds from the auction will support the programs of the In-Sight Photography Project. For over sixteen years, In-Sight has offered beginner, intermediate, and advanced level photography classes to area youth ages 11 to 18, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, contact In-Sight at 802/251-9960, [tipp@sover.net](mailto:tipp@sover.net) or visit [www.insight-photography.org](http://www.insight-photography.org).



Steven Brock

## Wish List *Donations are tax deductible!*

- Digital SLR Cameras
- 35mm SLR cameras
- Medium-format cameras
- 4x5 cameras and lenses
- Tripods
- Light Meters
- Photography Books and Magazines
- We are in special need of a bit of dry, secure storage space.
- Volunteers and Board Members needed.
- We rely on volunteers to teach classes, run labs, set-up programs with other organizations, and help with fund-raising and our publications. Photography experience is helpful but not required.

## We rely on the generosity of donors like you.

In-Sight is a Vermont not-for-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) tax status, which means your donation is tax deductible. Your contribution will provide the following resources for one student for the duration of an eight to ten week course. Please consider making a donation today and check the appropriate box below.

### Please check below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Photo Chemicals     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Enlarging paper                       |
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*Donations of materials are also welcome. Please call 802 251-9960 or email [tipp@sover.net](mailto:tipp@sover.net).*



## Greetings from In-Sights New Program Director Stephen Dybas

The In-Sight Photography Project is an amazing organization that I feel honored to be a part of. My interest in photography started in college, but it wasn't until I served as a VISTA Volunteer in Butte, Montana that I knew I wanted to work with photography. Living in the beautiful surroundings of the West, I wanted to capture every moment. The natural beauty made learning photography that much easier. After taking some post-graduate classes in photography, I received an internship with *U.S. News and World Report* magazine, eventually becoming a photo editor for the publication. My experiences in journalism led me back to school for my MFA. During my time at the artist-run Visual Studies Workshop, I learned the importance of community-based arts organizations and began my work as an educator. Since then I have taught photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Rochester, and SUNY Brockport. These great experiences helped me realize the power photography has to influence and help individuals.

My love and excitement for photography continues with my new position at In-Sight. I am excited about the opportunity to act as the Program Director and to continue to educate the youth of the Brattleboro area. With decreasing budgets for art in schools, the need for institutions like In-Sight increases. It is paramount that youth become conscious of factors that influence their lives and find creative outlets to express their ideas. Yet fewer and fewer youth are growing up with access to learn the skills and forms of expression that In-Sight offers. During my time at In-Sight, I want to continue to reach a greater number and wider array of youth. Through the wonderful support the program receives from volunteers and the community, this is a goal we can achieve!

## In-Sight Welcomes AmeriCorps Volunteer

This August, Sophia LaCava-Bohanan joined the In-Sight Photography Project for a year of service as an Ameri-



Corps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America). Sophia comes to In-Sight from Smith College, where she graduated in May with a degree in Studio Art with a concentration in Photography. Like many of the youth she will work with at In-Sight, Sophia's passion for photography began as a teenager. "I first recognized photography as an invaluable tool for cross-cultural communication when I was a sophomore in high school," Sophia wrote in her application to In-Sight. On a trip to Uganda at 16, she discovered that her digital camera allowed her to share and connect with Ugandan children and adults in a way that was impossible verbally. After her trip, Sophia sought out experiences in photography and visual education, winning a series of notable internships at organizations such as the AIDS Orphans Education Trust, Art in General, the Studio Museum in Harlem, the International Center of Photography and the Smith College Museum of Art. In acquiring this lustrous resume, Sophia has gained experience as an artist, a non-profit administrator and a youth educator. She comes to Vermont excited to serve In-Sight's mission to develop visual literacy among Brattleboro youth. She looks forward to life within the community, both of Brattleboro and In-Sight.

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