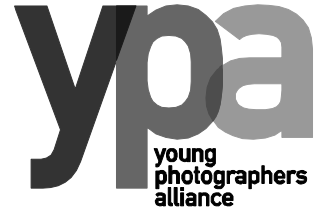


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Young Photographers Alliance Announces its Second International Mentoring Program

NEW YORK, NY — June 21, 2011 — Young Photographer's Alliance (YPA), a 501(c)3 educational foundation dedicated to developing the talent of young photographers, has announced its second international mentoring opportunity for students and recent graduates of college-level photography programs. This year's theme, "Everything is Energy," focuses on the powerful forces that shape our world, our politics, our environment, our lives and ourselves.

"YPA's inaugural mentoring program in 2010 was a resounding success and we're thrilled to offer this tremendous opportunity to a new group of aspiring image makers," commented Jerry Tavin, YPA Co-founder and president. "Energy is anything and everything," he continued. "It can be human, physical, mental, spiritual, a force of nature, mechanical, technical, invented or created. The goal of this project is for young photographers to look beyond the obvious and explore the theme metaphorically in a way that sheds new light on the human condition."

Developed with the support of a grant from the American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP)—the leading trade association for commercial photographers—the YPA mentor program pairs emerging photographers with a leading photographer. Each student is encouraged to push boundaries and shed light on the subject in new and innovative ways within the context of their photographic specialty, including portraiture, photojournalism, landscape, architectural photography and more. The deliverables will be not only a collection of thought-provoking images, but also a written essay from each mentee that offers insight and inspiration to viewers. In addition to helping these protégées fine-tune their artistic talent and build their portfolios, the program offers them an unparalleled opportunity to develop business skills and explore markets for their work.

More than 50 students will be participating this year. The North American teams include students from colleges across the country mentored by 17 renowned photographers, including Barbara Bordnick, Lynne Damianos, Dirk Fletcher, Rafael Soldi and others. In addition, students in China, Thailand and the UK will partner with celebrated artists such as Sophie Batterbury, Dennie Cody, Shannon Fagan, Duangkamon Khattiya, Justin Sutcliffe and John Wright (full lists below).

"We are so pleased to be the first team to bring the YPA Mentoring Program to Thailand," commented DK Khattiya. Fellow Bangkok-based mentor, Dennie Cody, added, "We see this as a great opportunity to open doors to different cultures and bring unique new perspectives from the other side of the world to the YPA mission."

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“The mentoring program in China will be just as much about teaching confidence in photography as it will be about teaching excellence in photography,” said mentor Shannon Fagan. “Mentoring allows us to tackle many of the issues surrounding photography as a career and localize it for Chinese students hoping to work in this part of the world.”

“We are really excited about expanding the Mentoring Programme in the UK. We have some amazing photographers and picture editors as mentors so we hope to attract some strong applicants. This year we are also awarding prizes for the best overall projects so it makes for a great offering, “ states Erin Moroney, UK Advisory Board Chair.

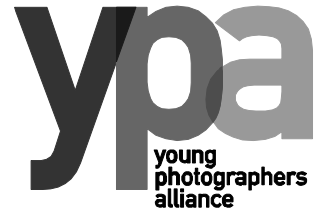
In the weeks ahead, YPA will be seeking volunteers to assist with the 2011 YPA Awards Ceremony and Benefit, which will take place on Wednesday October 19. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Deborah Free at 585-768-7880 or deborah@youngphotographersalliance.org.

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2011 Mentors

Stan Kaady (Atlanta)	Jenna Close (San Diego)
Margot Cheel (Boston)	Jon Held (San Diego)
Lynne Damianos (Boston)	Rafael Soldi (Seattle)
Dirk Fletcher (Chicago)	Ozant Kamaci (Toronto)
EJ Carr (Denver)	Dennie Cody (Bangkok)
Christopher Davies (Denver)	DK Khattiya (Bangkok)
Dan Shrock (Denver)	Shannon Fagan (Beijing)
Rocky Kneten (Houston)	Elaine Livingstone (Glasgow)
Sofia van der Dys (Houston)	Claire Stuart (Glasgow)
Cat Jimenez (Los Angeles)	Sophie Batterbury (United Kingdom)
Barbara Bordnick (NYC)	Justin Sutcliffe (United Kingdom)
Stella Kramer (NYC)	John Wright (United Kingdom)
Jill Waterman (NYC)	

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2011 Participating Colleges

Arapahoe Community College
Art Institute of Atlanta
Art Institute of Philadelphia
Art Institute of Portland
Boston University Center for Digital Imaging Arts
Brooks Institute
Cal State Fullerton
College of Staten Island
Columbia College Chicago
East Tennessee State University
Houston Community College
New England School of Photography
Ontario College of Art and Design

Orange Coast College
Parsons The New School for Design
Rice University
Santa Monica College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seattle University
School of Visual Arts
Syracuse University
University of Michigan
University of Texas at Austin
University of the Arts
University of Washington

About YPA

Young Photographers Alliance is a global community where young photographers connect with the inspiration, resources and contacts they need to build successful and sustainable careers as the artists and communicators of the future. The foundation brings together a wealth of industry experience through its board and membership and offers real-world knowledge, insight, experience and contacts to help students and other emerging photographers develop their artistic skills and business acumen as photography professionals. Likewise, through its programs, YPA helps established photography professionals connect with the next generation of innovative image-makers. For more information, visit YPA online at www.YoungPhotographersAlliance.org.

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