



EVERYTHING IS ENERGY

Young Photographers Alliance 2011 Mentoring Program

Without energy we would not exist. Energy is an internal or inherent power that has the capacity of acting, operating, or producing an effect, whether exerted or not. For this project talented photography students explore the world of energy.

PARTICIPANTS

62 college photography students
27 professional photographer mentors

LOCATIONS

Canada

Toronto

China

Beijing

Scotland

Glasgow

Thailand

Bangkok

United States

Atlanta

Boston

Chicago

Denver

Houston

Los Angeles

New York

San Diego

Seattle

United Kingdom

London



Major Founding Sponsor



Project Brief to the Students

Young Photographer's Alliance invited the next generation of photographers to explore the theme of energy, to discover the powerful forces that shape our world, our politics, our environment, our lives and ourselves.

This mentoring project sent teams of talented college students and emerging photographers along with their professional photography mentors into the field to find unique and inspiring perspectives on the meaning of "energy" as it affects us in the 21st century.

Energy is anything and everything; it can be human, physical, mental or spiritual; a force of nature; it can be mechanical, technical, invented or created. The goal of this project was for the participants to harness their skills as image-makers and to look beyond the obvious, to explore the theme metaphorically in a way that sheds new light on the human condition.

Through a series of thought provoking images and a brief essay, the students were challenged to bring insight, inspiration and energy to the viewer.

About the Mentoring Program

Everything is Energy was the 2011 theme for the annual Young Photographers Alliance mentoring program which provides encouragement and assistance to young photographers entering the field, through a project that explores the power of photography to communicate, document and inspire. Talented college students and recent graduates are partnered with leading photographers who act as mentors to collaborate on a photo essay around a compelling social theme.

The program gives emerging photographers the ability to work with successful professionals to fine tune their craft, create images for their portfolios, develop business and skills and explore markets for their work. At the same time they experience the power of photography to build community awareness and support around an important environmental or social issue.

Everything is Energy is an initiative of the Young Photographers Alliance with support from ASMP Foundation.



Left:
Discussing creative briefs in Los Angeles.

Below:
A team meeting in Boston.



Below left and right:
Students in Houston prepare for a shoot.

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Young Photographers Alliance
2011 Mentoring Program



Right:
Working hard in Atlanta
to solidify ideas.

Far right:
The Bangkok team
meets to work out
a concept.

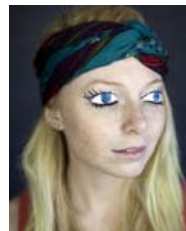


Energy accrued or depleted declares the stance and position one exists in. Without the necessary balance of imagination and sense of reality, one is trapped in layers of dusty whirs of confusion.



Bridget Baker

Seattle University
San Diego Team



As pint sized wonders of the world, the youth fashion surroundings to their hydrated imaginations as they please; dreamers that captivate the deadened. Starry eyed, their agile cognitions are wildly healthy, all conditions met, needing no voids or holes filled.

Coming of age, a catalyst sets in as a virus would, ready to capture lively prey at any moment of given time. A certain synapse snaps in front of the mind's eye, invoking a being at fault. Guilty for dreaming, desolate and in need of protection - like white blood cells or a god. Hopes soon begin to wither away as corolla in a peony would with a dearth of water, layer by layer - sad, sappy, sticking to itself rather than keeping up in the air.

So it seems, there has been a loss somewhere, a neurotransmitter undergone transmission. The spectrum separating life and death is measured in increments

of energy. Matter that has the ability to wither the spirit on a circuit of circumstance, has a tendency to leave one estranged: yearning nostalgically to be back in hydration once more.

Like life and death, the contrast between hydration and dehydration compose the 2 prime factors of existence. Hydration in spirit and in the soul are the equivalents of rightful and true existence. Slipping out of existence, is much like dehydration of the spirit and the soul. Energy accrued or depleted declares the stance and position one exists in. Without the necessary balance of imagination and sense of reality, one is trapped in layers of dusty whirs of confusion. It is said, that too much of one thing, is a bad thing. Too much, or too little energy are teachers of understanding, preaching the nature of balance between life and death to those trying to figure everything out.



Having photographed several weddings over the past few months, I have witnessed the incredible amount of energy involved in these events.



Fiona Conrad

School Of Visual Arts
New York Team



My project focuses on human energy in the context of a wedding day. Having photographed several weddings over the past few months, I have witnessed the incredible amount of energy involved in these events. After months of preparation, anticipation and excitement, a couple's big day finally comes together in a mixture of nerves, tears, laughter, love... an avalanche of raw emotions that often leads to a feeling of liberation.

These three images were shot at different weddings and yet share common elements in form and meaning. Warm tones and light convey a happy, playful moment between newlyweds, friends and family.

Fluid movements and spontaneous actions give a sense of rhythm and feeling of total release.

Through these images, I also wanted to project my own energy when I'm trying to capture what Henri Cartier-Bresson called decisive moments. Creating such images happens when we are caught up in the instant and connected with our environment. Seizing life while maintaining a balance between composition and substance requires high levels of focus, intuition and sensibility. This powerful energy that comes from within is, I believe, the essence of photography.



Everything we throw away, or stop using for one reason or another, is wasted energy.



Danielle Coupland

Sheridan College
Toronto Team



Consuming Waste

Waste is something we normally don't think about as energy, especially once it leaves our household. Sure, we do recycle. But with most of our electronics, we recycle to upgrade to a newer version, like cell phones, video games, and the majority of electronics we own. I shot this series at my local landfill, where everything I throw out, and recycle, goes. I've focused on the idea of wasted energy through vast consumerism, mainly throughout North America. These images show everyday consumers looking to a place where we wouldn't normally find value, towards the wasted potential energy.

The movie 'Wasteland' featuring the artist Vik Muniz, is what first interested me on the topic. The film features workers in Brazil in their daily lives working at a landfill who come home from work with anything from a new pair of shoes, to a dinner that will feed their entire family.

This really started me thinking about all the things; the energy, I throw out on a daily basis. Why was I throwing it out, could I still put them to use? If someone else can find value in my trash, why couldn't I? I wanted to illustrate how consumer-driven North America is, how we should start seeing treasure in someone else's trash, and especially, our own. We're always buying and consuming new, when really, there is so much value to the things we throw away, we just need to see it from a different perspective.

Everything we throw away, or stop using for one reason or another, is wasted energy. Through these images, I hope to get minds thinking about how we can save this potential energy, by starting to look at our waste differently, through someone else's eyes before we decide to trash it.



In the world everything is in motion, which means that there is a need to consume energy.



Baoling Huang

Boston Team



Kitchen Scene

The theme of the project is the scene of the kitchen. The kitchen is a place that leads to the loss of energy and to the increase of energy. Energy is the capacity for work or vigorous activity. Every day people who work in the kitchen consume food to provide for the energy needs of the body. Therefore, recording their work helps illustrate the importance of energy. Without any energy we could not do anything, and this could bring a different perspective that customers don't often see, as the diner.

In the world everything is in motion, which means that there is a need to consume energy. In the kitchen there is an energy transfer because there is a lot of rushing around. When everyone enjoys the delicious food it is because the staff are

busy in the kitchen. So in the kitchen you can see the chef, dish washer, or waiter usually are very busy. Sometimes they have a short rest - short rest is necessary for them, because when they go into the kitchen they just keep working, they consume their physical strength. Labor needs energy, so with no energy all becomes meaningless.

This time I chose to stay in a kitchen and to shoot the same object, I used different ways to show the subject. For example, I tried to use a different angle, position and shutter speed. I spend two days in the kitchen, during my time with them we spoke and worked together. For me this is a good opportunity to know about their daily life in the kitchen. In this place, which means need to consume a lot of energy in every moment.



Natalie Halford

University of Westminster
London Team



I chose to photograph teenagers because they are full of life and have boundless energy,

'Energy' was the brief given for this project. My initial thoughts on how I would approach the title were inspired by youth and the energy they radiate amongst each other. I wanted to capture an innocent energy in adolescents through movement in real life scenarios and juxtapose this idea

with a young preppy clothing style. I chose to photograph teenagers because they are full of life and have boundless energy, they represent the now, however, everyone can relate to this energy as it is inscribed in all of us... we were all that age once.



We have the capacity to produce all the energy we could want, but at the cost of leaving behind waste that will remain for thousands of generations, and landscapes devoid of the basic substance of life: sunlight, plants, animals and food.



Mary King

University of Michigan
Chicago Team



My initial intent for this project was to give evidence of the ways in which our collective energy addiction has engineered our world. I immediately envisioned sobering images of the steel and concrete landscapes most of us call home, that simultaneously define and endanger everything that sustains us. I was struck by the irony of a species that creates a world in which it has no viable future.

Throughout my travels I had no difficulty finding the material I sought, but, fortunately, material of a very different sort as well. I came across a flourishing Amish population, an ever-increasing sect of traditionalists who, because of a strict religious ethic, have rejected our modern, energy-hungry lifestyle. They live limited, but energy independent lives. They build, eat, manufacture, and travel in ways that are entirely (or very nearly) locally sustainable, and which require nothing from the "outside world." Whatever they use or need, they produce themselves. They are a picture of the world that was, one in which we played a small but significant part.

A short distance away, the cooling towers of a nuclear power plant cast vast shadows over the landscape. I realize that despite their separation from the mainstream, these people will inevitably share the repercussions of our choices as a whole, as a human family.

So where do we stand? We find ourselves at a crossroads, individually and as communities, countries, and citizens of the world. We have the capacity to produce all the energy we could want, but at the cost of leaving behind waste that will remain for thousands of generations, and landscapes devoid of the basic substance of life: sunlight, plants, animals and food. Or we can begin learning to forego, to simplify, to shift our perception away from, "What is convenient?" and towards, "What is truly feasible and sustainable in the long term?"



The dance between performer and listener is a beautiful interchange of energy that flows back and forth, drawing on one another and equally giving back.



Teresa Meier

Academy of Art University
Seattle Team



The Energy that Binds Us

Music. You hear it, see it being made, can touch the makers. Most of all, you feel it. Music has the power to move people's bodies and stir their souls. It brings people together in a space where we understand one another and find our bodies intermingling, all speaking one common language. To illustrate how music can bring people together, igniting a crowd in a fury of movement and energy, I photographed performing musicians and their audiences transformed, engaged in dance.

The harmonious movements of a dancing crowd create a space of visual synchronization. To convey this sense of space and energy between people I loosely focused on the crowd allowing gesture and form to take over the frame. Musicians themselves are full of expression in their body movements and face, at times a reflection

of their audience. This dance between performer and listener is a beautiful interchange of energy that flows back and forth, drawing on one another and equally giving back.

I grew up playing the cello. I was shy and timid but found I could express myself through music and more importantly connect with others. I hope that by photographing live music I am able to convey what a positive, powerful force it is. It is an important tradition that we can only experience by being together. I fear many of us are too busy in our increasingly fast paced, technology encumbered lifestyles to slow down and take the time to enjoy each other's company, talents and vitality face to face. Something, some kind of energy is lost. I hope these photographs represent that beautiful energy.



My story is about that super energy that is hidden in human body. It is a form of energy that a body possesses because of adrenaline.

Worayot Muang-ya

Rajabhat Suansunantha
University
Bangkok Team



Kinetic Energy

A person or an object that is moving horizontally or vertically has kinetic energy. My story is about that super energy that is hidden in human body. It is a form of energy that a body possesses because of adrenaline. We may not realize that when we are under extreme conditions, we may have a tremendous energy to perform beyond the normal human capacity. This energy can manifest itself in many ways.

What I have tried to do with my three images is to illustrate that capacity for kinetic energy through light forms. Kinetic energy represents the ability of humans to do acts such as lifting heavy objects to free someone who is trapped underneath that object. Other stories about people doing things such as walking or running long distances to find lost lovers or family members are examples of this energy being expended by humans under duress. My images are light representation of this human energy.



Suzie Ovens

Loughborough University
London Team



My photographs demonstrate the energy expended in both large and small exertions. The viewer can see the energy expended by the ballet dancer in the change of her position, the flex of her muscles and the tautness of her limbs.

For me, energy means movement and the expending of energy. As a photographer people are fascinating, the way they look, the way they behave and the way they move. The driving force behind my photography is to capture and reflect this in my work. For this project, I wanted to capture the brief moments when a human being is expending energy. To do this I wanted to capture movement. When movement is photographed, it is usually depicted by blurred images. Instead I aimed to depict the subject with clarity as well as movement. In order to this I used a technique called 'stroboscopic photography.' Stroboscopic photography involves triggering a flash multiple times whilst the shutter of the camera is open to show the subject clearly in different positions

during a short period of movement. The professional dancer, Lea Reah, trained at the Royal School of Ballet and is touring Europe over the coming months. In the images she demonstrates a couple of ballet movements as well as some floor based movements. My photographs demonstrate the energy expended in both large and small exertions. The viewer can see the energy expended by the ballet dancer in the change of her position, the flex of her muscles and the tautness of her limbs. The images not only demonstrate the movements, but are beautiful in their symmetry, shape and form. The viewer can see the path of movement and the changes in the shape of the ballet dancer.



As the project progressed, it became more about the emotional energy that it takes for Traci to deal with doctors too busy to really look into understanding her disease.

Below:

"My body feels like death, like it's slowly dying and no one else has any idea why. Every moment is a struggle and the next moment, I just pray to get through. I feel like I'm lost within myself."



Below:

"I love my family so much and it scares me to feel so ill. I want my kids to know me. Sometimes I feel so sick that I feel I could die at any moment and I'm afraid they will forget me. I'm scared of being replaced."



Steve Ricard

Georgia State University
Atlanta Team



On May 11, 2011, Traci Binford was diagnosed with a relatively unknown disease called Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). It was one of her happiest days in recent memory. I know this because I sat next to her as she laid on a hospital bed and cried, tears of suffering and relief, while the doctor explained the disease that would be with her for the rest of her life.

The first signs of the disease presented themselves more than a year earlier when Traci gave birth to our second child in late February 2010. The delivery was not especially difficult, but several seemingly minor complications would eventually lead her to a place where she would be thanking a doctor for telling her that she has a chronically debilitating disease.

In the 15 months between those two dates, she made visits to both primary and urgent care doctors, as well as saw specialists ranging from allergists to phlebologists. She can remember details of at least six emergency room visits.

While several tests showed abnormalities, taken individually these tests offered little reason for anyone, other than Traci, to be concerned.

Most medical professionals wrote her off almost immediately as either a hypochondriac or as having anxiety issues. One doctor refused to see her, another referred her to a psychiatrist. Throughout it all, Traci knew something was seriously wrong, and the first acknowledgement of that fact came on that morning in mid-May.

Initially, I wanted to show the physical energy that Traci puts into understanding and coping with her diagnosis. As the project progressed, however, it became more about the emotional energy that it takes for her to deal with doctors too busy to really look into understanding her disease, as well as all of the people along the way who can't "see" anything physically wrong with her. This project is for each of them, and for others like Traci, who might be struggling to find their own answers.

About Us

Young Photographers Alliance (YPA) is a global community where young photographers connect with the inspiration, resources and contacts they need to build successful and sustainable careers as the great artists and communicators of the future.

Young Photographer's Alliance

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All across America there are young people who are passionate about expressing their vision of the world through photography – but every year, it becomes harder and harder for them to do so. The photography industry is chaotic and complicated, with no clear track to artistic and commercial success. Survival often depends on one's ability to build a small business independently with limited resources and little, if any, access to advice or direction. This lack of support not only affects aspiring photographers directly, it will also have a long-term negative impact on the future of professional photography.

YPA is an educational foundation dedicated to rallying the resources of the creative community and general public in support of young talent. Our mission is to inspire and empower the next generation of image-makers by offering the real-world knowledge, insight, experience and contacts they need to build sustainable careers as photography professionals.

YPA is unique in its focus on community and the fostering of direct, meaningful connections between emerging and established photographers. Our vision is to create powerful synergies between the two groups, recognizing that collaboration benefits both, and ultimately energizes and advances the profession as a whole. Great talent isn't just born. It's developed.

The Young Photographers Alliance provides financial grants and skill-development opportunities for emerging photographers and photography students enrolled in college programs across the United States.

