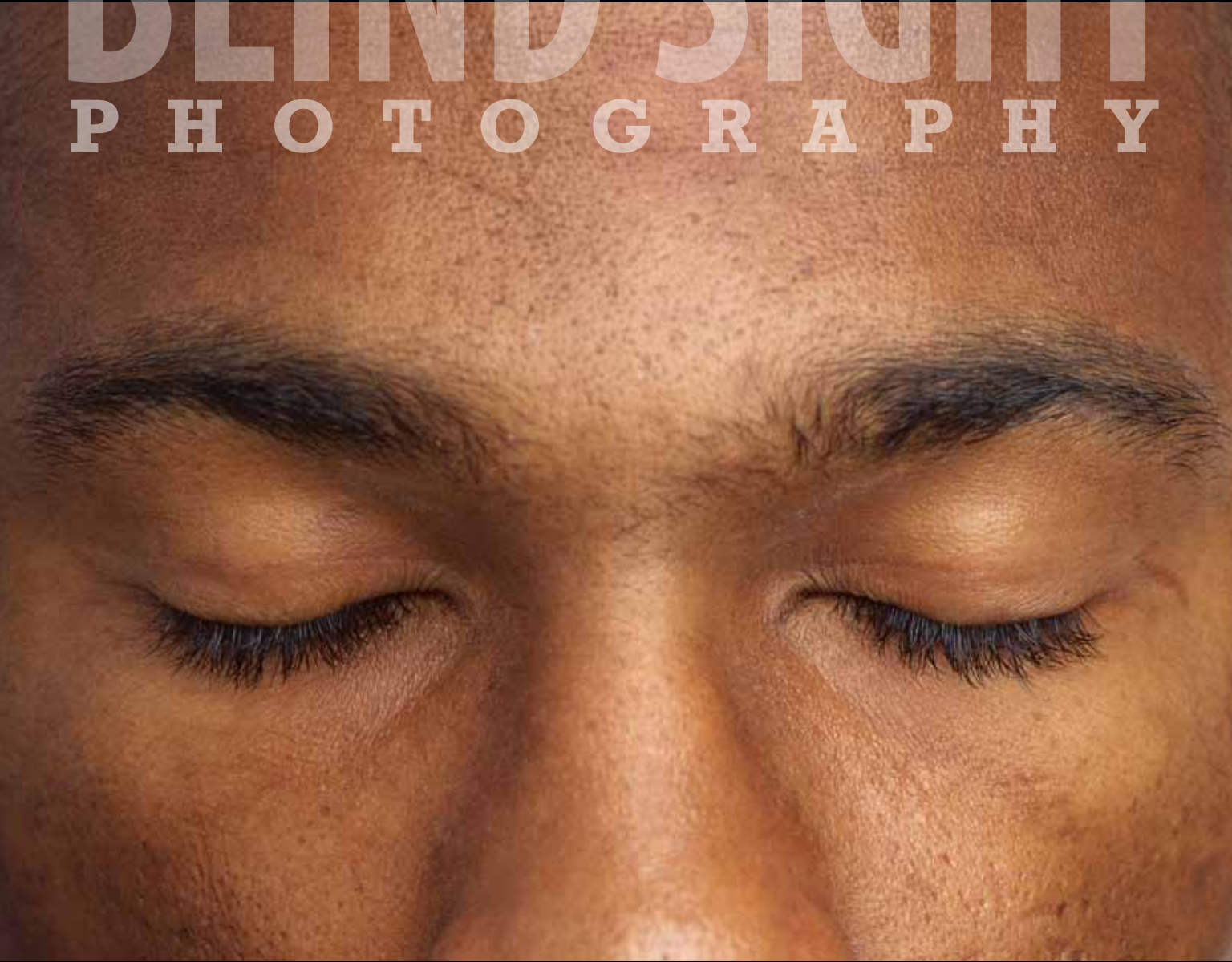


# BLIND SIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY



Images and Stories from the “Blind Sight”  
Photography Competition Sponsored  
by OIC Moments

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Sponsored by OIC Moments



[www.OICmoments.com](http://www.OICmoments.com)

*Special thanks to the following organizations,  
who helped spread the word about the competition:*

Alliance for the Equality of Blind Canadians  
American Council of the Blind  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Macular Degeneration Foundation  
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Association for Macular Diseases, Inc.  
Blind Veterans Association  
Canadian National Institute for the Blind  
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The Seeing Eye, Inc.  
National Industries for the Blind  
National Federation of the Blind  
European Blind Union  
Lions World Services For The Blind  
Action for Blind People of the United Kingdom  
Association Valentin Haüy (France)  
National Council for the Blind in Ireland  
National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom  
Royal National Institute For The Blind of the United Kingdom  
Scottish Sensory Centre  
South African Institute for the Blind  
South African National Council for the Blind  
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L.V. Prasad Eye Institute  
Singapore Association for the Visually Impaired  
Association for the Blind of Western Australia  
Blind Citizens Australia  
Macular Degeneration Foundation, Australia  
Retina Australia, Inc.  
Royal New Zealand Foundation For The Blind  
Royal Society for the Blind  
Royal Victoria Institute For The Blind of Australia

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# INSPIRATION

## Seeing Is About Much More Than Sight

On December 13, 2012, Meredith Mullins shared the inspiration she found in the work of visually-impaired photographers in an OIC Moments post titled “The Creative Process of Blind Photographers.” The imaginative artists featured in her article spurred deeper thinking about heightening our other senses to capture a photographic moment. As Meredith herself stated in her February 7, 2013 followup post, “They inspired a desire to slow down to experience the subtleties and richness of life in the world of modern photography where the accessibility of cameras and the ease of clicking the shutter get in the way of really ‘seeing’.”

In the end they inspired us to create the “Blind Sight” Photography Contest—a call to photographers and enthusiasts to share in this idea of seeing without sight. Via Facebook, we invited people from around the world to enter the contest—blind and visually impaired photographers as well as sighted photographers who, at the moment of image capture, would use other senses besides sight to connect with the subject and create the photograph.

To encourage all forms of participation, contest entries received votes from friends and fans of the OIC Moments Facebook page. At the conclusion of the entry and voting period, the top ten vote-getting entrants were then put to a distinguished jury, who evaluated the finalists on artistic merit, creativity, and composition in order to arrive at the three Prize Winners.

In addition, the jury decided to subsequently review entries regardless of popular vote totals and recognize outstanding submissions with a Jury Award of Merit.

164 entries and over 2200 votes later, the images we received for the contest proved—inspiringly—that there are many ways to “see.” So we decided to share them with you here, along with the entrant’s own words. We hope you enjoy, and in turn, “see” things from a new perspective!





# THE JURY



### Julie Grahame

Julie Grahame is the publisher of aCurator.com, a full-screen photography magazine, and the aCurator blog, which was named in Life.com's 2011 Photo Blog Awards.

Julie is a member of American Society of Picture Professionals (ASPP) and American Photography Archive Group (APAG); a portfolio reviewer for American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP), American Photographic Artist (APA), FotoFusion, Photo Plus Expo; a judge for PDN and the New Orleans Photo Alliance and The International Fine Art Photography Competition.



### Jerry Fielder

Jerry Fielder is a photographer, curator, and Director of the Yousuf Karsh Estate. After a decade as Director of Promotion and Public Relations at NBC, Jerry became the photographic assistant to the renowned portrait photographer, Yousuf Karsh. For more than 13 years, Jerry assisted Karsh in hundreds of sittings around the world and also organized Karsh's archives of negatives and prints.

Jerry has curated and co-curated numerous exhibitions across the U.S., Canada, England, France, Germany, Japan, and around the world. He also lectures extensively and writes for various photography publications and catalogues. In 2003, he completed a book on Karsh's life, published by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, entitled, KARSH: A Biography in Images.



### Meredith Mullins

Meredith Mullins is an American fine art photographer and writer living in Paris. Her photographs are exhibited internationally, and she is the author of the award winning photography book In A Paris Moment, a teacher of photography for adults and children, and the Director and Co-Founder of The International Fine Art Photography Competition.

Meredith is the recipient of several photography awards (including the Prix de la Photographie Paris, the Grand Concours Photo sur Paris, the Worldwide Gala Photo Award, and Julia Margaret Cameron Award). She is also a writer for OIC Moments and a member of the Paris Writers Group.

# GUIDED



"I'm visually impaired and enjoy taking nature pictures. While riding in the country with my friend, we came across a bridge and he told me it was a very pretty lake."

~ Debbie McDonald

*Quite often, visually-impaired and blind photographers will join a sighted guide to assist in the exploration, and in some cases even to identify photographic opportunities.*





*A timeless photo that leaves us wondering about when and where we are, but gives us clues and forms rich in tone so that we can imagine our own intriguing story.*

Jury Comment



"These photos were taken by a blind person within a project called 'One Day', when two photographers (one blind and one sighted) were taking pictures of their space within one single day."

~ Vitaliy Kim



"I'm totally blind and I am able to take photo of statues! (my family helped me to position myself in front of the statues ;p)."

~ Serene Ang

*A colorful moment that blends statues and humans, old and new, tradition and modernity in a spontaneous and joyful way.*

Jury Comment



"I was out in the woods with my husband and asked him to guide me with my eyes closed to an interesting area. Keeping my eyes shut, I pressed the shutter, which resulted in this somewhat ominous picture."

~ Betsy van Die

*A haunting image that seems natural (with the fresh green foliage) and ominous at the same time. What is this dead thing discarded in the forest, made even more mysterious by the soft focus and odd clues to its purpose? And why has it "died" in the middle of a deserted woods?*

Jury Comment





"It was pitch black and I was standing by a tree. My friend said 'there is a racoon in the tree.' I held the camera way above my head and snapped the shot. I never saw the racoon. I was astonished to see a crisp picture of a racoon in my monitor!"

*~ John MacDonald*

# LISTENING



"I'm totally blind, so I took the photo by hearing the sound of the helicopters."

~ William Hiu



"My husband was having fun following pigeons around this temple's huge courtyard. So I just closed my eyes, stood still and tried to just listen to his footsteps."

*~ Stephenie Leong*





"I stood still, and allowed the young girl to dribble the basketball towards the goal and shoot it. While she was doing so I had my eyes closed and took continuous shots in front of me and ended up with this awesome distortion."

~ Vanessa Wood



"I'm completely blind in one eye and almost blind in the other. I see light and shadow through movement. While sitting on a bench, I heard many pigeons at my feet and when I heard a kid running in my direction I knew they would all be disrupted. I photographed right in front of me and found out it was a little girl chasing a pigeon with the Statue of Liberty tiny in the background."

~ Flo Fox

*This is just a classic photograph, reminiscent of others perhaps, but it is simply charming. Great composition.*

Jury Comment



"I wanted my land-locked family back in frigid Ohio to feel some of the glory of my solo trip to the beach. I'm blind, and really had no idea what they would see in the picture. I just steadied the camera in my hand and took four or five shots out over the crashing waves."

*~ Sheri Wells-Jensen*



"I am visually impaired. During a riverboat ride along the Singapore River, I turned to the sound of the Merlion streaming out water and took the photo."

*~ Jason Setok*





"I was trying to take a picture of fireworks then suddenly a loud noise frightened me so I grabbed my camera though its still exposing."

*~ Reu Dawner Flores*



"My cat got out and I heard him 'meow'. I followed his 'meow' and followed my brother's voice so I didn't fall."

*~ Jessica Wallace*





"I knew from the etchy background sound that we were under the bridge."

*~ Evangeline Yeo*



"I had my eyes closed and could hear the drain quickly draining water. I took the photo right before all the water ran out."

~ Vanessa Wood



"With my eyes closed I heard the rhythmic footfalls of joggers and thought I would take a shot of this dynamic scene. I was surprised to find that I had not captured the movement or crowd of people I had thought to be there, but also surprised to have isolated a bit of the uniqueness that is the city."

~ Erin Flaherty

# TOUCH & FEEL



"I found the tree by touch. I took pictures of the tree's top, middle, and bottom."

~ Jessica Wallace





"I was walking across a field. The sun was very warm on my back so I knew I was casting a strong shadow."  
~ David Taggart



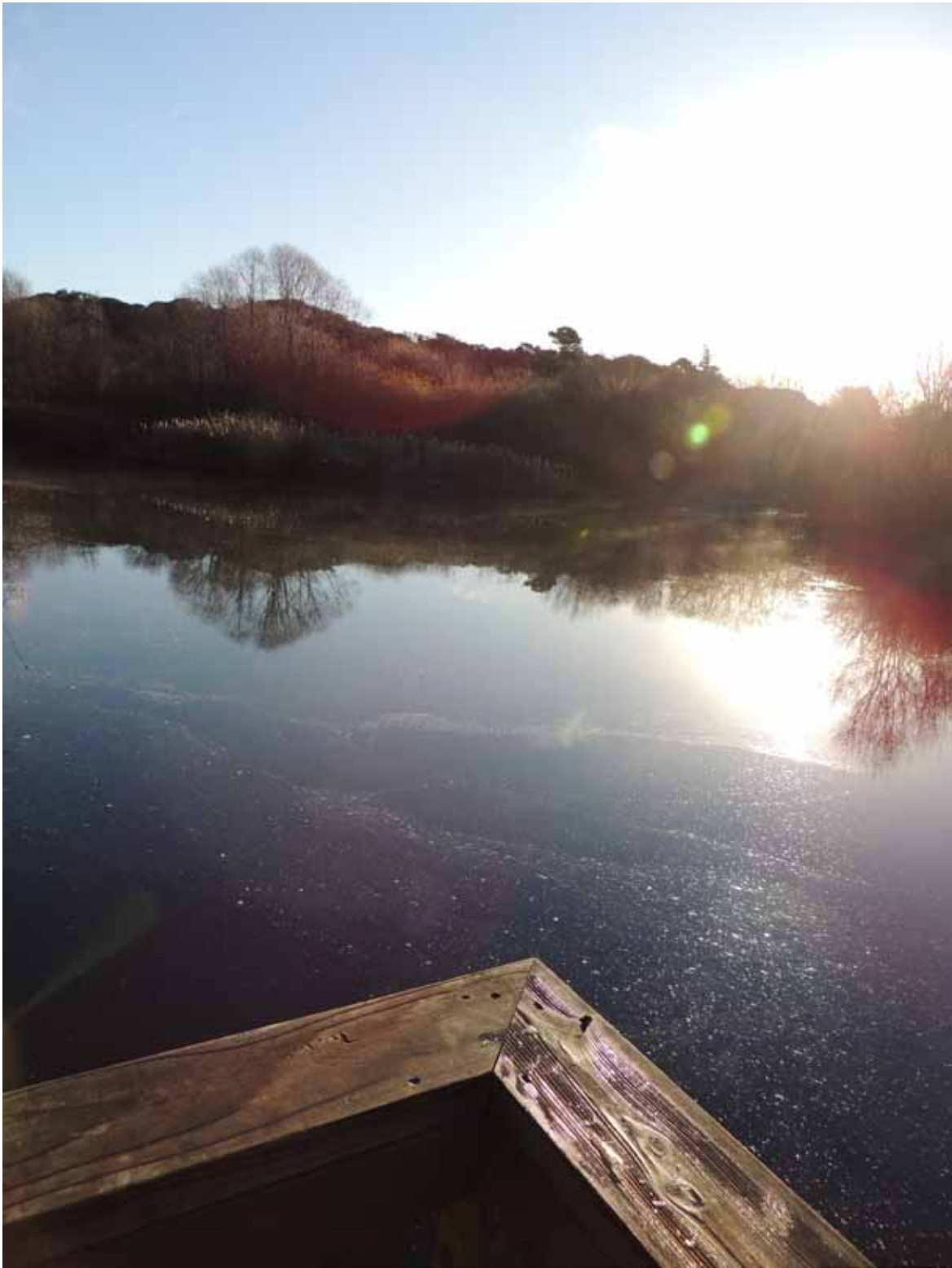
"I'm totally blind, so when I am crossing the road, these tactile floorings are helpful."

~ William Hiu

*The composition is really nice, an achievement for a totally blind photographer.*

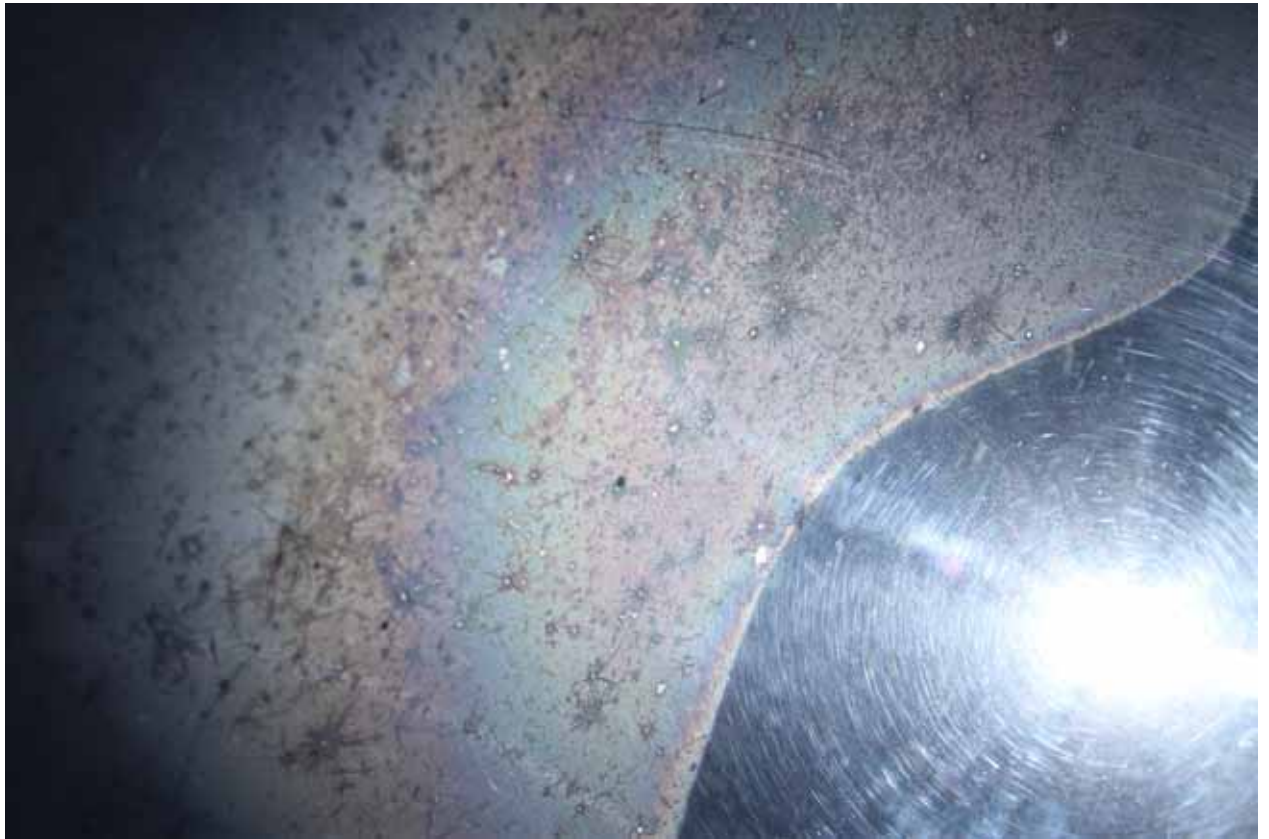
Jury Comment





"I let my hand lead me to the corner of the deck that sticks out into Frog pond. I backed up a few steps, lifted the camera to chest height, and took the photo."

~ David Taggart



"While riding in an airplane, the sunlight entered my window. I took the picture without looking."

~ Gabriel Dominise



"I touched everything so I would know where I am. I found the hallway and know by memory there is a door at the end of the hallway."

*~ Jessica Wallace*



"Feeling the warmth of sunlight through the window, I took a photograph of the chandelier."

*~ Sean Mealin*





"I felt the tree then backed away and then I got this shot"

*~ Jessica Wallace*





"Walking around the house with my eyes closed, I touched a vase full of flowers, gently and slowly walked it outside, put my camera up to the flower, and snapped the shot."

*~ Anthony Marincas*

# INTUITION



"Just clicked without looking."

*~ Faraz Ahmed Rajar*



"I extended my arms out in front of me and held my camera over what I thought was the entire fish bowl. Without realizing it, I managed to photograph an angle without sight I never would have seen."

~ Vanessa Wood



"I took the picture from the low angle to create multiple layers."

*~ Sandipan Majumdar*





"I was standing in Deadvlei Namibia and thought to myself how it would be impossible to take a bad photograph here, as the natural colours and shapes were so powerful. I spun around, closed my eyes and clicked... I think I was right. "  
~ Tamar Saks



"I took the camera and placed it over the log without bending to see the display."

*~ Ritun Prachur*



"People moments."

*~ Ye 'Naung Phe 'Khon*



"When I took this photo, I am unconscious and I control myself from fall into the deep well."

~ Pranab Basak



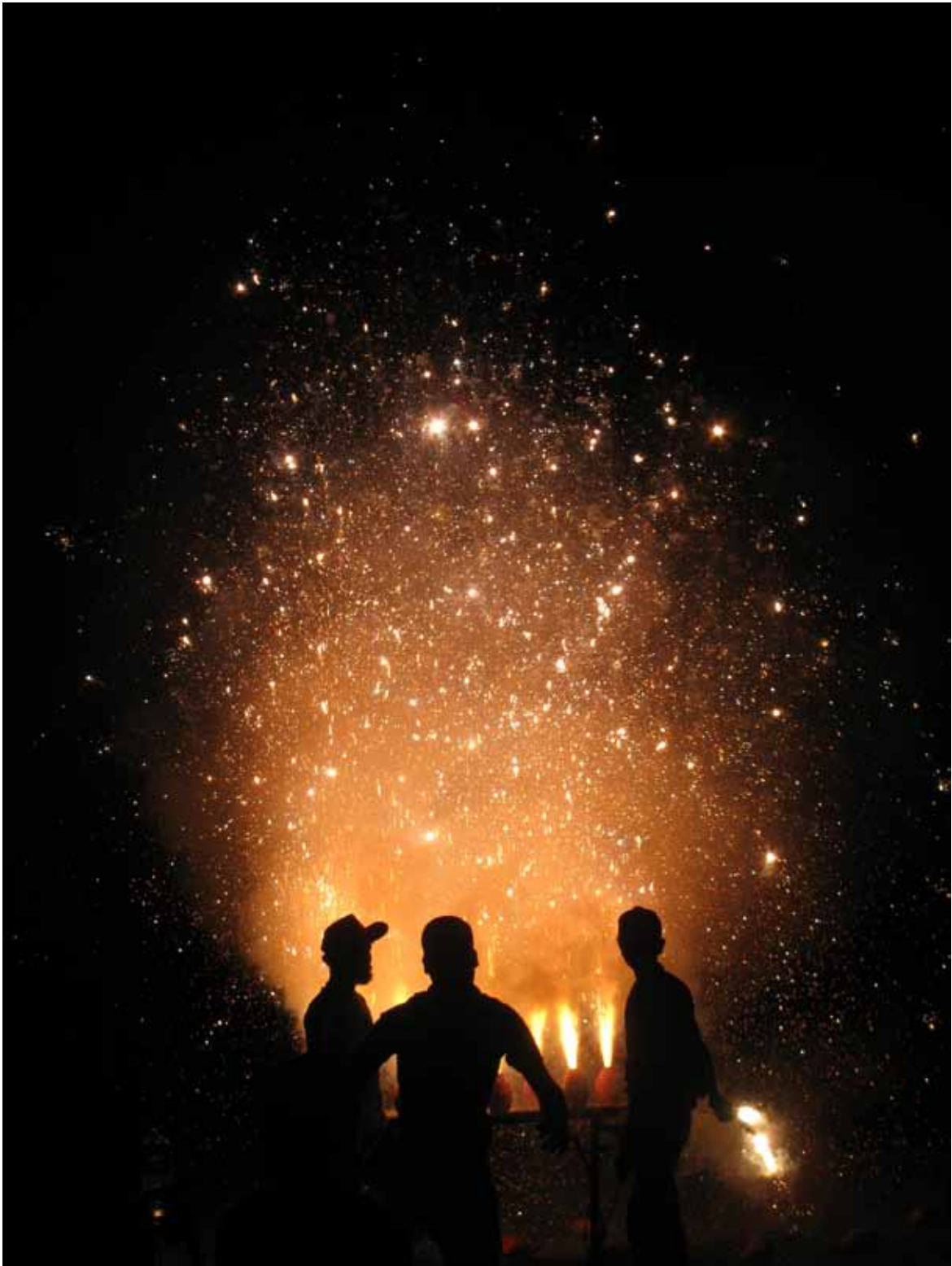


"Using my cell phone... a pic of my family dog that I see in the light but cannot see in the dark"  
~ Angela Wiggins



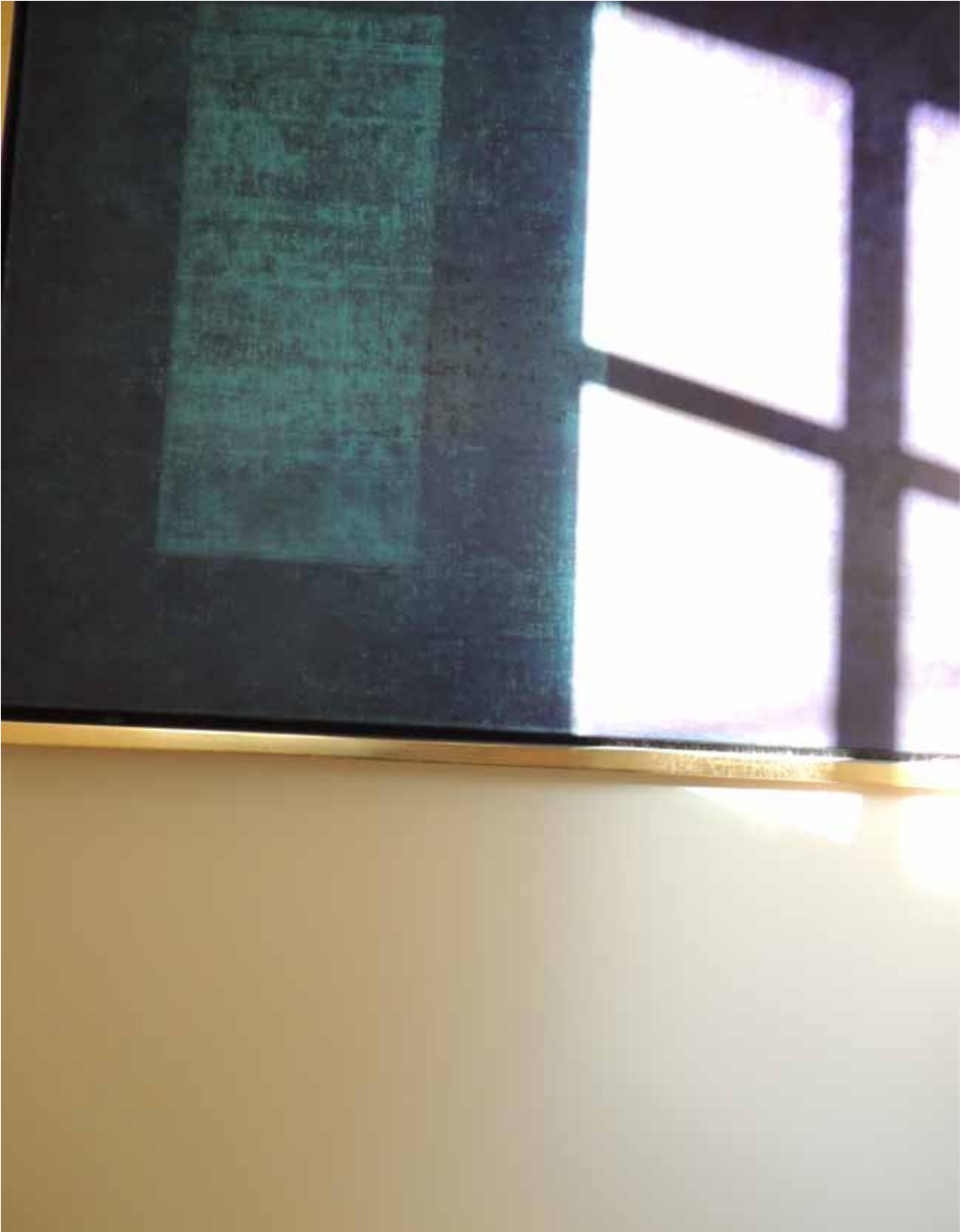
"This photo was taking in a small village of West Bengal, India. Some children are playing with a bicycle tire. They throw the tire in the air and try to reach the limit of the sky."

*~ Amit Mukherjee*



"In the night I managed to click this shot."

~ Shishit Desai



"The wall in a bathroom."

~ David Taggart





"I was hoping for a mountain reflexion near Whitter AK."

~ Scott Carruthers



"When I was like a blind photographer, there was no difference in the world is night or day."

*~ Reza Rafiei Rad*

# SELF PORTRAIT



"Auto Portrait, prise par moi-même."

~ Sandra Wrzesiak





"I held the camera in my mouth and pointed it at my hands. I wanted to capture a uphill struggle without looking and holding the camera in place with my own two hands."

~ Eleanor Bennett

*Unique concept. Nicely composed, slightly ominous.*

Jury Comment





"Self click! Darkness is light turned inside out!"

~ Faizan Baksh



"Long exposure shot and standing in front of the camera moving around a handheld light."

*~ Alexander Edwards*



"I propped my camera up on a wall near where I was sitting so I was unable to see the image I had taken. I wanted to capture a bad mood."

*~ Eleanor Bennett*



"I take my cell phone camera and took pictures without calculation. But the result is not bad, not as I imagined."

*~ Rovi Tavare*



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