

Center for Fine Art Photography — 2009 International Exhibition

Juror's Selection — Best of Show + Flak Photo Award

Janet Pritchard - www.art.uconn.edu/faculty/pritchard/index.htm

Artist Showcase Online Awards

Elizabeth Fleming - www.elizabethfleming.com

Stuart Clugston - www.stuartclugstonphotography.com

Juror's Statement

In his essay, *Online Photographic Thinking*,* Jason Evans investigates the nature of digital media and its impact on the processes of making, publishing and experiencing photography: "In the inevitable and frankly tedious digital versus analog debate, my position is one of either/and. Both systems offer distinct possibilities, but I ultimately believe that they are just different sides of the same coin." He's right, of course — the way a picture *looks* is relatively similar in print and online, but *seeing* an image on an uncalibrated monitor is hardly a substitute for experiencing an original print.

Despite its limitations, the Internet is changing the way we consider photography and so the experience of being a photographer is undergoing remarkable transformations. No longer relegated to the gallery wall or the printed page — photoblogs, online magazines and digital galleries have exploded in recent years — photography now regularly (and sometimes exclusively) appears on computer screens.

More significantly, the new media is influencing contemporary photography culture around the world: connecting international audiences to art experiences, enabling the discovery of new work and presenting never-before-seen channels of expression and communication.

Today's photographer surfs the web, subscribes to blog updates, uses search engines to access photo websites, and interacts with a global community of colleagues by participating in social networks like Flickr, Facebook and Twitter. All of this results in a collaborative experience that's dissolving international boundaries and creating a community of photographers that interacts and shares their work more spontaneously than ever before. In that spirit, the "group show" is a perfect expression of *photography online*.

This year's international exhibition features work from the United States, Mexico, Canada, China, Argentina, France and the United Kingdom. Like the random shuffle of the iPod, the collection reflects the digital disorder of the online experience. Not bound by a formal theme, I approached this assemblage like a mixtape compilation — each image representative of its artist, a taste of what's available, should the viewer wish to pursue the work further.

Most of these photographers show their work on a personal website, some maintain blogs and contribute to online collectives; all of these experiences are readily findable and instantly available, each of them just a few clicks away. I welcome you to consider these images not as an end result, but rather, a starting point for further discovery.

Andy Adams
Editor / Flak Photo
www.flakphoto.com

* Now available in a print-on-demand book from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Evans' essay provides a nice introduction to a handful of online photography projects. Find it at www.wordswithoutpictures.org/main.html?id=112