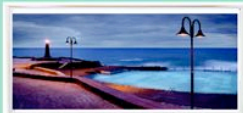


FOTOSEPTIEMBRE



BETTY TAYLOR

Fotoseptiembre USA-SAFOTO, one of the world's largest photography festivals, officially gets underway in September and runs Sept. 1 through 30 in San Antonio and other Texas cities. The event, now in its 12th year, features the physical and online galleries of Texas photographic artists as well as artists from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Poland, Mexico, Uruguay, Switzerland and other countries.

"And even such faraway places as Oregon, Minnesota and San Antonio's East and West sides," jokes Michael Mehl, festival director.

The work itself is eclectic and fresh, Mehl said. It includes everything from portraits of refugees in Darfur to a poetry slam performance at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

The poetry slam is in conjunction with the Allen Ginsberg exhibition that runs through Oct. 14 at the San Antonio Museum of Art. That exhibition covers the early and late works of the beat photographer. Ginsberg works include portraits of Jack Kerouac and Timothy Leary.

San Antonio photographer Al Rendon captures 20 years of images and antics of some of the greatest rock and roll bands as they traveled to Texas in his exhibit, "All Access: My Rock 'N' Roll," which dis-



Photos Courtesy of Fotoseptiembre



plays Sept. 7 through Oct. 31 at Rendon Photography and Fine Art, 733 S. Alamo St. See Ted Nugent like you have never seen him before in a colorful, beautiful shot performing on stage.

Bob Howen's "America the Beautiful . . . We Celebrate, We Remember" brings to life the patriotic landscapes that come to mind when one sings the lyrics "purple mountain's majesty." The San Antonio photographer's exhibit will be on display Sept. 10 through 21 at the Art Incorporated Gallery of Fine Arts located on 9401 San Pedro.

Brent Holbert of Boerne and Matt Wright-Steel chronicled the daily lives of native bomb hunters for "Residue of Conflict: Laos" which displays Sept. 15 through 29 at the Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne. The two artists traveled to Laos in the winter of 2006 to 2007 and, in addition to documenting what they saw with photographs, they recorded a travel blog that can be found at www.anthrotrek.com.

"Fotoseptiembre USA-SAFOTO is an exhibit-oriented photography festival," Mehl said. "This may seem an obvious statement, but festivals come in many formats these days."

Mehl said the festival does not focus on lectures, conferences, awards, networking, parties or socializing.

"We'd rather focus on the exhibitions, letting the images speak for themselves," he said.

"The festival is the only one of its size

that is artist-run, privately owned and privately funded. All Fotoseptiembre USA events are free and open to the public. For a viewing of the SA Foto Web galleries and listing of festival programs, go to www.safotofestival.com.


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