

TEN WEST LIVING™

September/October 2014



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"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."
– Maya Angelou

Tenacity, perseverance, grit, stick-to-itiveness...This is what we need to foster in our students heading back to the classroom.

Don't give up. The idea that if you stick to it and don't give up, you can make your dreams come true is as American as apple pie. I'm not sure everyone who says this includes the hard work that goes along with persevering. After all, you can't just persevere in the corner of your room hoping all those dreams will come true. What needs to happen? Education? Saving money? Getting experience? Usually, yes, yes, and yes for almost any dream.

Encountering a student, one who for one reason or another has given up, is a difficult thing to deal with. I would ask you to volunteer. You would not believe how much it means to these kids for someone to say, "You matter," and walk their talk. Volunteer at local schools to listen to children read if that program is available. Check out Meadowlands, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates), all great organizations. Many of these students could benefit from your time. I challenge you to help through whatever charity you love that helps young people. Together we can make a difference for our youth.

Enjoy the magazine!

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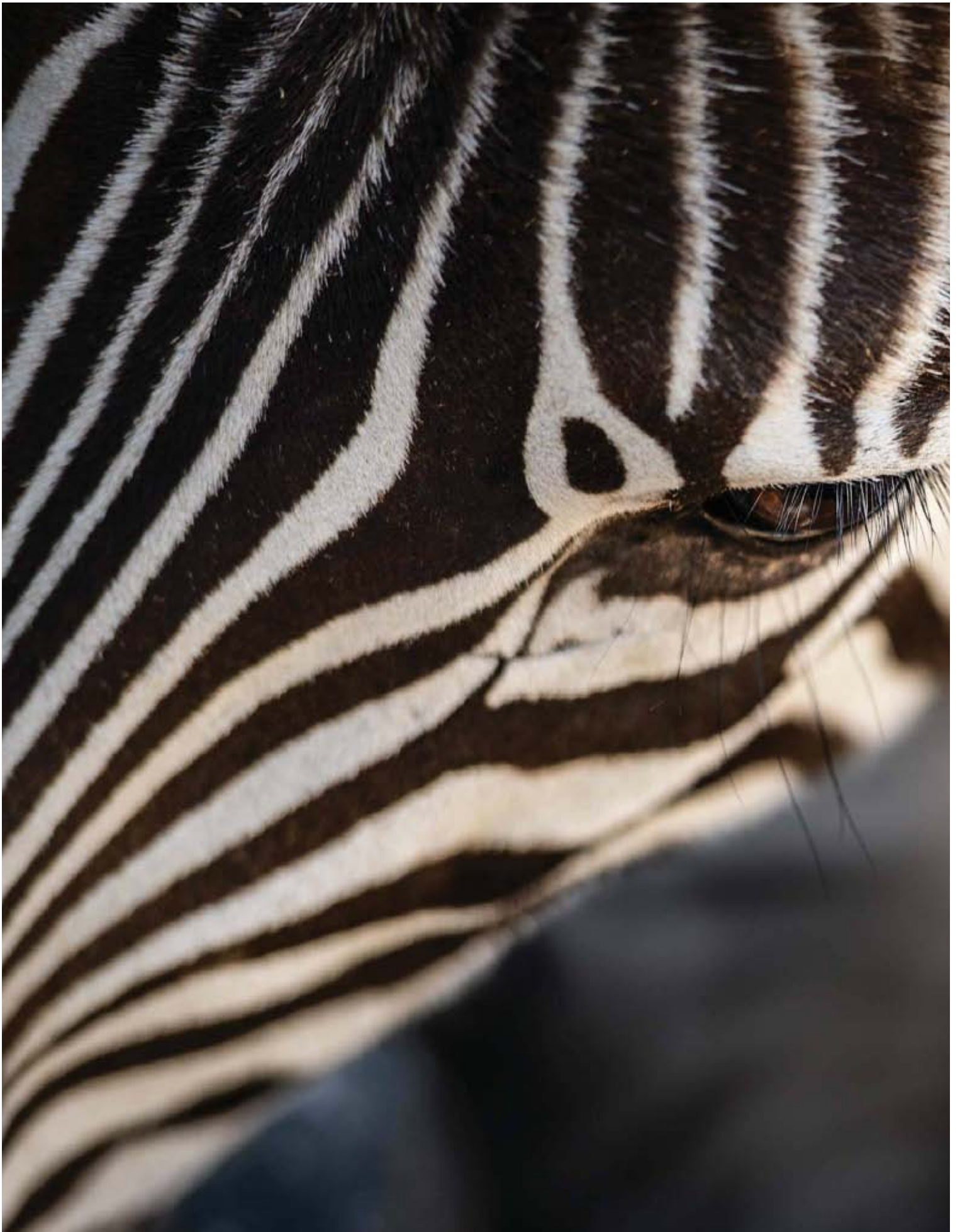
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AN INSIDERS LOOK

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA 2014

by Vernelle Lynch

This year marks the 20th installment of Fotoseptiembre USA, a month long international celebration of photography. The festival has had a huge impact in San Antonio since its inception in 1995, when it featured a handful of exhibits and conferences. It is now a full-fledged international celebration of photography that engages audiences across South Texas including San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country. This year's festival runs August 23 - September 28, 2014 (several exhibits will remain on display through October).



From Previous Page: E. Castle in "Close Encounters" exhibit for the Carriage House Gallery. Current Page from Left, top to bottom, to Right: Chelle Delaney in "Journeys" exhibit at Huisache Grill; Dornith Doherty's "Apple Collection" for the UTSA Art Gallery in Geneva New York; Robert Michaelson in "The Silent World" exhibit at Musical Bridges Art Gallery; Mary Ellen Mark with "Madonna The Giraffe" for Wittliff Collections.

Many photographic artists exhibit their work during the festival, presenting traditional and non-traditional images side-by-side. Although the debate of the merits of film-based photography versus digital photography can go on forever, the Fotoseptiembre USA festival organizers are more interested in the wide range of images being created in all photographic media, with traditional, experimental, or non-conventional approaches. This inclusiveness is the strength and significance of Fotoseptiembre USA as a forum for photographic artists, and it allows the public to explore the world of traditional photographs, digital images, photography based works, photographic installations, alternative processes and everything in-between.

Fotoseptiembre USA takes place in different venues across the area. Each exhibit has its own feel and its own unique venue. Some exhibits present a more "fine art" approach to photography, while others strive to make a statement or further a point of view. As you make your way from exhibit to exhibit, you can feel the entire city swept up into the artistic magic of Fotoseptiembre USA.

Starting last year, the festival organizers decided to bring their own quality standards into the mix. The organizers now examine each exhibit more critically, looking to present a Choice Award to those artists and curators whose work and effort stand above the rest.

Fotoseptiembre USA features exhibitions and gallery talks in over 30 venues across the area, making it very convenient to explore regardless of where you are. The Villa Finale Museum, the Briscoe Western Art Museum, and the Southwest School of Art and Blue Star Arts Complex are just a few in the downtown area; while UTSA, AnArte Gallery and Musical Bridges Art Gallery are some that are spread throughout San Antonio. The Fotoseptiembre USA Signature Exhibits –curated by Michael Mehl (Festival Director) and Krzysztof Jurecki (polish curator and art critic)– are presented in the SAFOTO Web Galleries for the 2nd year in a row, showcasing the works of international artists.

My best advice to make the most out of your experience is to open your eyes and let the artistic expression and exploration take over your soul.

Fotoseptiembre USA takes place every September. Be sure to explore the eclectic scope of works on exhibition, and maybe even take a piece of art or two home.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information and complete exhibit details visit www.fotoseptiembreusa.com