



GLOBAL EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Julia Dean and Associates
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Dear Ms. Dean and Associates,

Thank you for giving photographers the opportunity to travel and search the world for stunning pictures and people in need. Photographers are part of an intricate web of people who serve as watchdogs of the world, guardians of the needy, and documenters of the tragic conditions. With journalists, travel writers, humanitarians and aid workers around the world, photographers bring stories back home to fuel the finding of cures and the giving of relief. I aspire to be a helpful and useful piece of that web. I feel that photographers are "global eyes" who piece together the very soul of our world through photographs.

After attending Brooks Photography Institute, I felt disheartened with studio work and began traveling on shoe string budgets to places I felt had stories to tell. I went to Cairo to focus on child labor, Calcutta to document the last of the rickshaw wallahs, Java to experience the difficulties of the sulfur miners, Haiti to see the power of voodoo pilgrimages, Bangladesh to explore the horrible beauty of the ship breakers, to AIDS hospitals in Thailand where death is more apparent than life, to the Bolivian Amazon to document gold and silver mining in its rawest state and to many other distant places. Each experience has significantly strengthened my desire and ability to evoke a sense of humanity in my photographs. The images that you see in my submission are my visual echo of the human condition.

Currently I am trying to find ways to show my work so that it can be useful in society and can tell important truths about the world to people who do not travel to such places. At the same time, I feel the pressure of time and wish to travel and document what is presently going on so that our mistakes can be curbed and the future will not repeat itself. I am specifically interested in landscapes that are disappearing, traditions that are being changed by the onslaught of westernization and people who are repressed or enslaved by poor conditions. I wish to be at the forefront of this important global documentary.

Photography is a difficult trade; there are few people willing to see suffering on their walls at home and the demand for black and white imagery in publications is low. I hope that someday I will be able to support my family and still be able to do that which I love; while giving back to the world I live in. This scholarship would allow me to take a needed break from work here at home and would give me the opportunity to further develop my focus on the human condition. Photographically and spiritually this opportunity would give me a new vision, a renewed drive and fuel my photographic heart.

Sincerely,

Michael Robertson