

La Creciente

Alejandro Chaskielberg

Photographs

Text By Maria Carolina Baulo

Alejandro Chaskielberg is a 34 year old Director of Photography from the Argentina's National Film and Audiovisual Art Institute. He started his career as a photojournalist, working in local newspapers and magazines and later doing documentaries for television. He also dedicated many years to another passion: violin, but he returned to photography a few years later. Documentaries allowed him to develop his personal aesthetic and also encouraged him to participate in different contests; the first one he won was "Curriculum Cero" in a prestigious gallery in Argentina, Ruth Benzacar.

The series La Creciente emerges from the time he spent at the Delta in Buenos Aires, far away from the city, absolutely connected with the river, nature and the local people around. During that first year he lived on the island he took 12 photographs working with extreme precision in the composition of the images: the full moon, the geography, people and the magnificence of nature itself combined. Color, exposure and focus variations were the main interest of the artist; images required 6 minutes of exposure which demanded people to stay in place, not a movement whatsoever, while Alejandro walked around the scene adding light with a flashlight where it was needed according to his aesthetic perspective. The artist was now completely devoted to make a professional career and back from de Delta he met Martin Parr, who invited him to participate of the Brighton Biennial; this motivated him to go back to the islands and edit a book adding texts and images, presenting a more complete final work. Each project needs to be empowered by something, a small idea that grows. Anything can inspire a new series: a book, a film, a poem, just pure imagination or even the technique could suggest or motivate certain interests. The Uruguayan author Felisberto Hernandez wrote the tale named Casa Inundada; that was the beginning of the series La Creciente.



Roland Paiva's Radiance, 2009
Kodak E 100G 4x5 Film
Sinar Norma camera, Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 3 min @ f3.5

Alejandro's influences come from the movies rather than photography: Herzog, Polanski and D. Lynch. He won in 2011 the L'Iris d'Or at the Sony World Photo Awards. Also in 2011 he received the POYI – Latin America Pictures of the Year as the best Latin American Portrait. In 2009 he was the recipient of the BURN online magazine Emerging Photographer Grant. He also won the Talent Latent Award as part of Spain's SCAN'09 Festival, as well as the Leopold Godowsky Jr. Award from the Boston University. He was named as one of PDN magazine's 30 New and emerging photographers to watch. In 2008 he was invited to participate in the National Geographic All Roads Photography Program. His works



Family on the Wharf
Kodak E 100G 4x5 Film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 5 minutes @f3.5

were exhibited in Japan, UK, USA, Paraguay, Argentina (galleries, museums, fairs and biennales). His latest exhibition in 2012 was hold at the Ring Cube Gallery in Tokyo; he also worked in the city of Otsuchi, at the north of Japan, taking pictures of the families who lost their homes back in the tsunami in 2011.



Spiritual Family, 2010
Kodak E 100G 4x5 Film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 7 minute @ f3.5

He works in series and color is still some of his most important concerns. To be able to work in documentaries, also allows him to mix his own interests and passions with the experience of meeting people by pure hazard and be able to tell their stories. But he wants to make a change in the future and stop thinking in terms of series but in the artist's vision only; no matter if the images integrate a series, they



The Paraguayans, 2007
Fuji Provia 100F 4x5 Film,
Cambo 4x5 camera,
Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 4 min @ f3.5

could just relate in a more global concept exceeding the limits of the series. That would be a challenge for him. In his own words: "Photography is pure aesthetics. Language changes all the time because we communicate with images. We need to expand our visual vocabulary and not be afraid of the new. We translate images according to our culture and reality and we also imprint our desires. When I take photographs, I think in terms of shapes and colors. I also need to be in contact with the people to feel the context and then create the photograph. I want the images to create



The Three Steps
Kodak E 100G 4x5 film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 2 mionutes @ f3.5

new ideas and never tell people what to think o what to see. Inspire people. I find myself as a classic photographer using film cameras and interested in photographic techniques and portraiture; my intention is to highlight a hopeful vision of the present, showing people's strength, to inspire the viewer that a change is possible".

The book La Creciente will be presented next December 5, 2012 at the MALBA (Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires).



Dark Passage, 2010
Kodak E 100G 4x5 film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider XL Super Angulon 90mm lens
Exposure - 3 minutes @f5.6



The Space Builder, 2010
Kodak E 100G film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider Super Angulon XL 90mm lens
Exposure - 5 minutes @ f5.6



Jose Castel, 2010
Kodak E 100G 4x5 Film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider Super Angulon XL 90mm lens
Exposure - 4.5 minutes @ f5.6



The Fall, 2007
Fuji Provia 100F 4x5 Film
Cambo camera
Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 6 minutes @ f3.5



Burning Willows, 2007
Fuji Provia 100F 4x5 Film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider 135mm lens
Exposure - 6minutes @f3.5



Mr. Bigotes, 2010
Kodak E 100G 4x5 Film
Sinar Norma camera
Schneider 210mm f5.6 lens
Exposure - 1.5 minutes @f5.6