



Urban Panorama in Brussels

from Photographer Martien van Beeck

Photo courtesy Martien van Beeck



Martien van Beeck is a photographer and university lecturer based in Brussels, Belgium. He manages the Master of Photography degree program at the Hogeschool Gent. IA&A's Internship in USA director Anna Smith spoke with Martien recently about his photography projects and his students. Check page 2 in the bulletin to see Martien's photographs.

AS: What is the urban project you are working on in Brussels?

Martien: A part of my photographic work concentrates on "constructed panorama's" of public places where lots of people gather. The panoramas are digitally put together out of several separate pictures. Another part of my photography is straight documentary, "street photography" in the tradition of so many great photographers. There is a certain tension here or some sort of schizophrenic situation (to put it in a slightly exaggerated way) that will lead me hopefully to a better understanding of the photographic language.

AS: Why Brussels?

Martien: Brussels is important for this project because it is a metropolis with typical characteristics: a clash of different cultures, crowded streets,

rich cultural life, big administrative areas versus residences, rich and poor, two different languages...It is therefore an ideal "playground/battlefield" for any photographer who wants to photograph people.

AS: What do you enjoy about teaching?

Martien: What I like about teaching is the diversity in the work of the students. After two years of general training in photography, students in the three-year Bachelor program and in the Masters program are supposed to develop a very personal photographic approach and style to their subject matter. As a teacher it is difficult but also exciting to find the right balance in thinking "with" a student and suggesting things on the way without starting to think "for" the student and doing the research and realization in his place.

AS: What is the latest big news from your students?

Martien: Bieke Depoorter, who just got her Masters degree in June 2009 at Hogeschool Gent, won the Magnum Expression Award, offered by Magnum Photos in New York City.

By Anna Smith

Photo by Martien van Beeck



TRAINEE IN ACTION

Carole Bestvater is currently training at Community MusicWorks, an organization that connects professional musicians with children and families from urban neighborhoods of Providence, RI. During her 10-month training, Carole is learning about music education and is performing around the community with a string quartet. She's also learning business functions of U.S.-based, non-profit organization. "I've gained so much insight on how to develop creative programs for children of all ages, especially programs that accommodate to a demographic of school-aged children who couldn't afford music lessons if it weren't for an organization such as Community MusicWorks," says Carole. After completing her training in the U.S., she plans to go back to her home country Canada to implement her new skills. She considers training in the U.S. an important step in her professional career. "I'm learning so much from everyone I'm surrounded by, and that makes me really excited. Here, I'm getting an education that I wouldn't be able to get anywhere else."

By Joanna Rutkowska



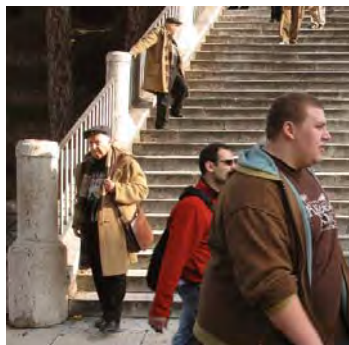
Photo courtesy Carole Bestvater



Testimonial from IA&A internship program alumna:

"It was a very well-spent year and I am thankful for every minute of it. Now I am ready to try the real world on my own."

— Kristina, costume designer, Slovakia,
trained at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.



Photos by Martien van Beeck

Internship in the USA

International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is recruiting for the Internship in the USA program, spring and summer 2010. Hundreds of students worldwide apply to IA&A's program each year to complete valuable summer or semester internships in New York City, Washington, D.C., Miami, FL, Los Angeles, CA and other U.S. cities. Apply online at: www.artsandartists.org/cep.html If you or someone you know wants to participate, please contact IA&A at usarts@artsandartists.org. Fields include business, arts, media, and architecture. Note: Candidates need a U.S. Department of State form DS2019 from a designated sponsor to apply for a J-1 visa to intern in the United States (required by law to intern in the U.S.). IA&A is a designated sponsor and provides the DS2019 form to IA&A program participants.

Postcard from featured city: Oakland, California



Photo courtesy Adventure Theatre

Spotlight on... Adventure Theatre in Washington, D.C.

International Arts & Artists, through its Cultural Exchange Programs, has collaborated with many art and cultural organizations in the U.S., including Adventure Theatre in historic Glen Echo, MD. It is the longest-running theatre program for children and their families in the Washington, D.C. area. Adventure Theater has enriched the lives of children and their families through stage adaption's of traditional and popular children's stories, creative education programs and constant outreach to the community for more than 50 years. IA&A sponsored Christopher Cook from Canada for the J1 trainee visa during his internship at Adventure Theater from January 2009 to August 2009. Chris obtained hands-on experience in all aspects of mounting a production, and developed his business and administrative skills while gaining acting training. "During his time at Adventure Theater, Chris broadened his skill set in both creative and technical areas of theatre," says Michael Bobbit, producing artistic director. The theatre company offers internship positions in the fields of arts management, education, communications, marketing, business, accounting, theatre, music, acting and dance. For more information visit their website at: www.adventuretheatre.org.

Jane Merkel

INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS

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