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Crisis and Opportunity: Documenting the Global Recession

Exhibition Runs July 6 – August 1, 2010

Opening Reception at PRC: Thursday, July 15, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

This exhibition of work by four photographers was organized in 2009 by SocialDocumentary.net, an organization that uses the power of photography to promote global awareness. A panel of judges reviewed projects focused on the topic of the global economic collapse. *Crisis and Opportunity* features work by Tomasz Tomaszewski of Poland, the first prize winner, and by honorable mentions Khaled Hasan of Bangladesh, Shiho Fukada of Japan, and Michael McElroy of the United States. The exhibition demonstrates the ripples felt worldwide by individuals subject to overwhelming life changes due to unseen economic forces.

Tomasz Tomaszewski – Hades?

Made in 2009 in Upper Silesia, Poland, this series pays homage to manual laborers whose jobs are disappearing due to changes in global economic situations. Tomaszewski, an award-winning and widely published press photographer, worked in a mining region rich in culture but increasingly poor in jobs.

Khaled Hasan - Living Stone: A Community Losing Its Life

In the northeastern part of Bangladesh, the community of Jaflong includes several thousand laborers who extract stones from the Piyain River to process them by hand. Hasan, whose goal as a freelance photographer has been to serve his community as a messenger, conveys a trade threatened on all sides.

Shiho Fukada - End of Labor: Dumping Ground of Old Men in Japan

Fukada, a freelance photographer from Japan based in Beijing, photographed the dire straits of Kamagasaki, a former “laborer’s town” in Osaka that is now home to some 25,000 elderly and retired working men. Problems of alcoholism, poverty, suicide, and loneliness abound in this vanishing “welfare town.”

Michael McElroy - An American Nightmare

Healthcare suffering under the recession informs McElroy’s narrative about Americans’ loss of dignity in the face of declining services and diminished abilities to pay for them. McElroy, a contract photojournalist based in Miami, draws attention to individuals missing the healthcare safety net.

Related Programs

Documentary Night at the PRC

Thursday, July 22, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Photographers working on documentary projects are invited to come and share their work with others. This is a chance for artists and viewers to get a sense of what topics are motivating local documentary efforts. Those who would like to show work should contact the PRC. There is no charge for this, but space is limited. Call 617-975-0600 or email info@prcboston.org to reserve a spot.