

Towards a Personal Vision

A Workshop with Robert Lyons and Jörg Colberg

Northampton, MA

Summer 2009

Towards a Personal Vision is a photography workshop for practicing photographers and advanced students in photography, to be held in Northampton, Massachusetts from July 24th, 2009 until July 26th, 2009.

Towards a Personal Vision

What is a “personal vision”? Are there tools that can be used to explore this area and that allow tapping into one's creative energy? How does a personal vision relate to the bigger picture: the art market, collectors, curators, publishing, and marketing?

The workshop will explore these topics through a survey of the medium from 1970 onward and distill some of the major methodologies including conceptual work, documentary style, personal diary, and more. Participants will work together in an open critique to firmly establish the areas that most appropriately describe their individual modes of work and to probe themselves concerning inspiration, motivation and practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on the issue of editing of one's work. Concurrent with these inquiries the class will examine and discuss the responsibilities of an artist to her/himself and to the social milieu in which s/he works.

We will closely examine images and ideas from a broad spectrum of artists beginning with the earliest pioneers of contemporary photography, such as William Eggleston, Stephen Shore, and Bernd & Hilla Becher, on to today's practitioners, such as Stephen Gill, Alec Soth, Brian Ulrich, and many others.

The class will also examine the intersection of literature and photography. Writers considered include Italo Calvino, John Berger, Geoff Dyer, Elmore Leonard, Paul Auster, Donald Richie...

Finally, the class will also discuss the impact of the internet on contemporary photography. How can a photographer can make use of the internet as a research tool and as a vehicle for marketing work?

Class structure will include both critiques and a discussion of technique as it relates to current practice in both analogue and digital formats.

In preparation for the workshop, participants will be sent a suggested reading list as well as a list of artists with whose work they should become familiar.

Students may work in color or black & white.

Instructor Profiles:

Robert Lyons lives and works in Berlin, Germany, and Massachusetts. He has taught widely in the USA and Europe. Presently, he is a guest lecturer at the OstkreuzSchule in Berlin and the University of Hartford Art School. His work has been widely exhibited in the United States and Europe and is represented in numerous permanent collections including: The Metropolitan Museum, Seattle Art Museum and the Henry Art Gallery. He has published four books including "Another Africa" (Bantam Dell Doubleday) and, most recently, "Intimate Enemy:Voices and Images from the Rwandan Genocide" (Zone Books, 2006). He has taught workshops at the ICP, Photographic Center Northwest and the Berlin Photo Workshops.

Jörg Colberg is a curator, writer and photographer, most well known for his photography blog, *Conscientious*. His work has been published in numerous magazines and books, and it can be seen on a wide variety of websites both nationally and internationally. Jörg has been a jury member of Critical Mass, Hey Hot Shot!, and the International Fashion and Photography Festival in Hyères, France 2008.

Application information:

This workshop is open to artists using photography, practicing photographers, and advanced students in photography (analogue or digital). Participants will be selected by Robert and Jörg based on materials submitted for review.

The following items must be submitted by email to ralfoto@aol.com by **June 30th, 2009**. Materials sent after that date will not be considered.

- Up to 10 jpeg images (*no other images formats, please!*)
- Artist statement or statement about the images submitted
- A concise summary of experience (photographic experience, education, exhibitions, publications, etc.)

Terms and Fees:

The cost of the workshop is \$375.00. Travel expenses and accommodations are the responsibility of the participant.

Upon acceptance accepted a \$100.00 deposit is required to hold one's place in the class. The remainder of the fee will due at the beginning of the workshop.

The workshop is limited to 7 to 10 participants.

Travel and Accommodations:

Northampton is approximately three hours from New York City, and just over an hour and a half from Boston by car. Bus and train services are also available from these cities. Bradley International Airport, located in Hartford, CT is about forty-five minutes away and offers many direct national and international flights.

The area known for its natural beauty and for its five colleges: Smith, Hampshire, Amherst, UMass, and Mount Holyoke. Northampton also boasts a vibrant arts scene and an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, and galleries.

A list of local accommodations will be provided to participants upon acceptance.