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Fax: +49(0)30.2829033

Schwarzenberg e.V.



Leslie Burns

Photography has given me a greater understanding of the self by allowing me opportunities to explore the world and document my reactions to it. Analysis of these reactions has given me a heightened awareness of my personal and social identities, while fostering greater respect for shared human experiences.

In 1999, I earned a BA in Studio Art from the College of Charleston. Upon entering my first photography class, I was a Biology major. My initial attempts at exploration through photography were based on an inquisitive interest in documenting animal behavior. While enrolled at the College of Charleston's Studio Art program, I developed a deeper appreciation for the role of art in the world.

After graduation, I worked as the R-3 Printer at Charleston's only professional photo lab. This position afforded me the opportunity to meet local professional photographers whom I later assisted on commercial shoots. In 2000, I was hired as the College of Charleston's first Photography Lab Technician. In this position, I realized my passion for teaching and the reward of helping others solve both aesthetic and technical problems. In 2001, as a member of a group of professional photographers, I helped develop and implement an after-school mentoring program for inner-city children. Working as a mentor and teacher contributed to my growth as an artist, and more importantly, as a member of my community. It also instilled an awareness of the psychological and social impacts that visual imagery could have on the viewer.

In the spring of 2005, I served as an Adjunct Professor of Photography at the

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College of Charleston. That summer I collaborated with the Charleston County School District and created a three-week Photography program held at Redux Contemporary Arts Center that aided in raising the students' self-esteem and awareness of their creative potential. My understanding of my role as an artist and my responsibility to use photography as an education tool to strengthen society emerged from this experience. In the fall of 2007, I was an Adjunct Professor at Trident Technical College and taught a Large Format Photography class.

As a teacher of photography I aspire to prepare students to express their own ideas with a thorough grounding in skill and technique. The institutions in which I have been fortunate to teach represent a diverse range of students and educational goals. I have developed an approach to teaching the medium that addresses and balances each of these important areas: discovering and nurturing students' individual strengths, developing technique, building strong concepts and the ability to articulate them, and inspiring students to use these skills and knowledge to develop and express their own original ideas through photography.

"Frank"

The "Frank" mask's original persona was a manifestation of my fears, the boogiemán incarnate. Since then it has taken on expressions of other emotions that all humans share. When the mask has no physical structure to give it form, it morphs into something uncomfortable and frightening, much like the world in which we often find ourselves when faced with fear or doubt. The mask, when worn by a model, takes on whatever emotion the model decides to portray through his or her body language. Sometimes it is acted; sometimes it is genuine. I search for these common human emotions in all

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of my subjects and attempt to represent them accurately. Once the viewer gets over the shock of the disturbing mask, he or she can see that "Frank" feels the same emotional highs and lows that we all experience. My goal is for the viewer to recognize how similar we are, as beasts and as humans, so that we may bypass the prejudices we hold for the unknowns and appreciate each other on an immediately genuine level.



Resume

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EDUCATION

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

May 1999

BA, Studio Art; Minor, Biology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor

August 2007-Present

Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC—Work closely with advanced students, instructing them on how to operate a view camera, load and process 4" x 5" sheet film, and make prints from 4 x 5 negatives. Students learn the advantages and disadvantages of large format photography. They are also required to create an advanced personal photo project that demonstrates their acquired knowledge.

Member, Photography Advisory Board Committee September 2007-Present

The Art Institute of Charleston, Charleston, SC—Offer practice and industry perspectives on issues of importance to the School, its faculty and students.

Bookkeeper

September 2006-Present

Glass Act Productions, Charleston, SC—Maintain records of financial transactions. Verify, allocate, and post details of business transactions to subsidiary accounts in computer files from documents, such as invoices, receipts, check stubs, and computer printouts. Reconcile and balances accounts. Compile reports to show statistics according to cash receipts and expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, profit and loss, and other items pertinent to operation of business. Prepare sales tax reports. Create and mail monthly statements to customers.

Adjunct Professor

January 2006-May 2006

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC—Directed students in understanding

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the basic technical and creative problems in black and white photography by using a variety of photographic techniques. Introduced the intricacies of camera operation, basic composition, film developing and printing. Emphasized the development of personal imagery and a sound technical grasp of the medium.

Photography Instructor

June 2005-July 2005

Redux Contemporary Arts Center, Charleston, SC—Collaborated with the Charleston County School District to create a three week vibrant and energetic environment for 45 talented high school students. Presented each student with five days of intense photographic training. Gave students thorough experience in the technical and creative elements of photography, ranging from loading film into the camera to making a finished photographic print.

Studio Manager

February 2004-April 2006

Hines Studios, Charleston, SC—Ensured that aims, goals and objectives are accomplished in accordance with outlined priorities and time limitations. Coordinated daily operations and handled office tasks such as correspondence, shipping, file management, accounts payable, accounts receivable and database administration. Prepared monthly payroll tax and sales tax returns. Maintained computer equipment and trained staff on software and hardware.

Assistant Preparator

August 2002-May 2004

Halsey Gallery, Charleston, SC—Assisted the Chief Preparator in accordance with museum standards. Executed installation plans for exhibitions. Performed safe packing practices. Worked closely with the Preparator, the Curator, artists and volunteers.

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Designer

December 2002-June 2003

Beth Frank Industries, Los Angeles, CA—Designed and constructed unique fashion accessories for high-end clientele. Worked closely with in-house manufacturing facilities to ensure quality of products. Established relationships with a variety of market vendors.

Art Director, Third Unit, Feature Film

January 2003

The Medallion, Los Angeles, CA-- Designed and implemented various creative techniques in order to meet the director's vision. Worked under the supervision of the director and in coordination with the production designer. Developed, coordinated, facilitated, and oversaw the overall design of the production of film inserts. Producer: Alfred Cheung; Director: Gordon Chan; Action Director: Sammo Hung.

Assistant to Art Director, Video

January 2003

I Wrote That, Los Angeles, CA— Assisted Art Director and Production Designer in all aspects of artistic design for a children's educational video. Producer: Sandy Watson; Director: Clive Fleury; Production Designer: Brian Eatwell.

Set Decorator/Property Master, Feature Film

December 2002

Halfway Decent, Los Angeles, CA-- Worked closely with the art director, production designer, construction foreman, and DP to dress and decorate the sets and to gather, maintain, and manage all the props for a production. Producer: Vincent Robert; Director: Alan Berger; Production Designer: Paul Knotter.

Set Decorator, Theater

October 2002

Olympic Improv Comedy Theater, Los Angeles, CA—Designed, constructed

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and decorated interior sets.

Scholarship Recipient

July 2001

Anderson Ranch Art Center, Snowmass Village, CO—Attended a two week dream workshop where I willfully experienced extreme disruption of my sleeping schedule to gain greater insight into my subconscious thoughts. Created unique books based on my dreams.

Photographic Mentor

August 2001-May 2002

Memminger Elementary School, Charleston, SC—Developed and implemented an after-school photography program, which met once a week, for 9 to 11 year old boys. Aided in raising children's self-esteem and awareness of their creativity. Gave them practical experience in the world of Fine Arts.

Event Coordinator

August 2001 to October 2001

Society for Photographic Education, Southeast Regional Conference, Charleston, SC—Ensured that aims, goals and objectives were accomplished in accordance with outlined priorities, time limitations, and funding conditions. Supervised volunteers.

Photography Technician

September 2000-May 2002

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC—Maintained the photography darkrooms. Instructed college level students on darkroom aspects of photography. Ordered and mixed chemicals. Repaired and maintained equipment. Maintained the photography slide library.

Photographer's Assistant

November 1999 to November 2001

Peter Frank Edwards Photographs, Charleston, SC—Assisted commercial

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photographer. Selected and assembled equipment according to subject, conditions, and knowledge of function and limitations of various types of cameras, lenses, films, and accessories. Worked directly with clients as needed to meet schedule.

Color Reversal Printer

June 1999 to February 2000

Alterman Studios, Charleston, SC—Provided consultation, design and production management to clients. Made photographic prints from slides and transparency films for professional photographers. Maintained equipment and chemicals.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2004 Redux Contemporary Arts Center, Charleston, SC
- 2004 Head Show, Halsey Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 2002 The Vagina Monologues, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC
- 2002 Palmetto Project; Gibbes Studio, Charleston, SC
- 2001 Appearances, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 2001 Untitled, Untitled Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 2001 Tribute to The Garage, 33-B Spring St, Charleston, SC
- 2000 Allusions, New Life Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 2000 Form of Gallery, 33-B Spring St, Charleston, SC
- 2000 Piccolo Spoleto Juried Art Exhibition, Curated by Mokhless Al-Hariri, Charleston, SC
- 1999 Piccolo Spoleto Juried Art Exhibition, Curated by Max Below Todeo Paris, Charleston, SC
- 1999 Young Contemporaries, Curated by Jennifer Gross, Halsey Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 1999 Print Studio South, Charleston, SC

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2001 Recent Works, Loggerhead, Charleston, SC
- 2001 To Be Continued, Zuppa, Charleston, SC
- 2000 Mummeries, City Gallery, Charleston, SC

PUBLICATIONS:

- 2007 The Human Bell, album front and rear covers, Human Bell, Thrill Jockey Records
- 2001 Charleston City Paper, review of *Untitled*, Kristen Rhodes, October 31, 2001
- 2001 Fiberarts, "Beyond Three Dimensions", September/October, 2001
- 2000 The Post and Courier, review of *Mummeries*, Dottie Ashley, March 19, 2000
- 1999 Charleston City Paper, review of Print Studio South, Kristen Rhodes, November 30, 1999