



EXHIBIT: *Seattle University BFA Photography Exhibition*
VENUE: Vachon Gallery | Fine Arts Building | Seattle University
OPENING RECEPTION: June 5, 2009 5 – 8pm
RUN OF SHOW: June 5 – June 19, 2009
ARTISTS: Ellen Erikson, Joysha Fajardo, Jessica Ishmael, Janae Jones, Michael Keefe, Yasuyoshi Sakamoto, Kelli Thoumsin

GALLERY HOURS: Mon–Fri: 9am–6pm,
SPECIAL HOURS: Sat Jun 6th 1pm – 5pm;
 Sat June 13th 1pm – 6pm
ADMISSION: Open to the public, always free
LOCATION: 901 12th Avenue (12th & Marion)
FOR MORE INFO CALL: 206.296.5360

Seattle University Presents First Annual BFA Photography Exhibition

Seattle – Seattle University presents the first annual Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Photography Exhibition, showcasing work by seven graduating students, June 5 – June 19, 2009 in the Vachon Gallery. Participating students, each with unique personal style, represent the first graduating class from Seattle University’s BFA degree program in Photography. This new degree program is made possible by an inimitable partnership between Seattle University and the Photographic Center Northwest.

Seven young artists present highlights from their diverse portfolios, as follows:

Ellen Erikson

In her collection of images, Ellen Erikson connects her own healing journey from a traumatic event, and the calming, supportive presence of the people and places around her. Erikson’s self-portraits reveal the artist’s vulnerability, while photographs of family, friends and special places gently weave a web of support.

Joysha Fajardo

Joysha Fajardo likes to play with her food; devouring the forms and textures it has to offer. Fajardo immortalizes her culinary world through intimate investigations. She invites her audience to feel, taste, and smell through her images.

Jessica Ishmael

In *Synergism*, Jessica Ishmael examines encounters with other people and the connections we make in split seconds. Ishmael collects fleeting memoirs from strangers, friends, and family in a personal retrospective, documenting a pulsating collection of time. Her photographs and use of sequential imaging in her video installation draw the viewer into an unexpected, and often off-beat world of characters and events.



Photo: *Cassius*, Janae Jones, 2009

Janae Jones

In *Leaders of the New School*, Janae Jones takes a microscopic look at Hip-Hop culture in the Pacific Northwest focusing on Triple Crown, a fashion boutique located on Capitol Hill in Seattle. Blending elements of fashion, music, and art, owners Ralph “Cassius” Belair and Jaycee “Kemetik” Colman started and continue to develop this environment with the intention of bringing back the essence of what Hip-Hop used to be.

Michael Keefe

In, *I Am*, Michael Keefe explores concepts of identification and otherness through the use of costume and environment as narrative. His photographs reverse the roles of conscious and subconscious, emphasizing fantasy with striking, yet playful imagery that evokes self reflection.

Yasuyoshi Sakamoto

In his book, *Sea, Sidewalk and Snow*, Yasuyoshi Sakamoto documents the cross-seasonal cultures of surfing, skateboarding and snowboarding in the Pacific Northwest. A native of Japan and avid participant in all three sports, Sakamoto is drawn to the interconnected nature of these communities and the industry and events that surround them.



Photo: *Seattle Center Skate Park*, Sakamoto, May 2005



Photo: *Dana, French Courtier*, Keefe, 2009

Kelli Thoumsin

Kelli Thoumsin investigates the concept of ambiguity in perception and memory through her installation *...not as it seemed*. Thoumsin invites the viewer to question the validity of reality by revealing obsessive accumulation and connotation through self portraiture, distortion of images and the presentation of collected artifacts.



Photo: *IV*, Kelli Thoumsin, 2009

For more information & high resolution scans, contact Claire Garoutte, Assistant Professor of Photography at Seattle University.