

The world through my eyes

Familial dysautonomia (FD) is a disorder of sensory function. Children with FD are born without the ability to sense their body, which prevents them from regulating many of the biological processes we take for granted. *The world through my eyes* is a photography competition for people with FD in which they are challenged to tell the story of what it feels like to have FD using a single picture. This year saw the highest number of entries on record, with submissions from Europe, South America, North America and Australia. There were many outstanding shots, each with a different narrative.

In New York on July 4th 2010, Christopher Ingram, a painter and sculptor who is also a physician, Dolores Mallea, a visual space artist from Buenos Aires, and Kapri Thomas, a concert pianist and music teacher, met to review the submissions.

The winners in the various categories were:

ABSTRACT ART CATEGORY. Lisa Gross “Firework Creatures”



Lisa's submission captured a 4th of July firework display. From within the abstractions of color and light, emerge the beautiful images of seahorses looking out into the blackness of the night. Lisa's picture was described by the jury panel as a vision of stability within a world of brief explosions. They all agreed that her photograph created powerful feelings and showed awesome capacity, worthy as the winner of the Abstract Art Category.

CONCEPTUAL ART CATEGORY. Veronica Segal “Carmen”



Veronica's composition uses a clever play-on-words to explain her unique concept of friendship and love. The judges thought her strong statement “My closest friend to the heart” created momentum, while the blurred image of her first pacemaker was a striking and unpredictable choice for an object of desire. They likened her work to the infamous artist René Magritte, while appreciating its sensual message, and voted her winner of the Conceptual Art Category. Her piece was given the title “Carmen” after the legendary line in Bizet's opera “Love is a rebellious bird that you can never hope to tame”.

POP ART CATEGORY. Aaron Menzel “Many personalities”



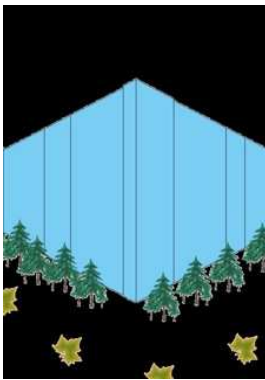
When the judges first saw Aaron's manipulated images repeated throughout his composition, they described him as a contemporary version of Andy Warhol. They thought his image, with its engaging play on repetition, showed elements of transforming with self-restraint. They unanimously agreed that Aaron, a winner of last year's photography competition, is a very talented contemporary artist and the winner of the Pop Art Category.

RETRO ART CATEGORY. Lainie Roebuck “Dear Hunter”



Lainie’s spontaneous picture captures a brief moment in her life. Using a retro color palette, reminiscent of the 1960s, the jury thought her photograph framed her husband, though her eyes, with swagger, style and charm, complete with a Mona Lisa smile. They were impressed with the various elements of her simple picture, choosing it was the winner for the Retro Art Category.

DIGITAL ART CATEGORY. Alexia DeGunzburg “Looking out and beyond”



Alexia’s careful use of perspective in a symmetric and asymmetric mix was chosen as the winner of the Digital Art Category. The panel thought that her central cube, with trees and maple leaves, reduced to simple colors, was organized and neat while bulging with light. They discussed how her composition tricks you into looking out and beyond while creating a great sense of balance.

URBAN PHOTOGRAPH CATEGORY. Simon Woolfson “The rule of the law and the rights of the people”



Simon’s urban landscape photograph looks down upon the Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, while allowing them to blend into the background of London through homogeneous colors. The judges believed that Simon’s love of politics and his excitement for the collation government were shown within his image, which represents the idealization of British democracy. They were very impressed how his photograph transformed you into being at the top of a Ferris wheel, and likened his style to a Turner painting. He was voted winner

of the Urban Photography Competition.

PORTRAIT CATEGORY. Gabrielle Jassie “Self-portrait”



The judges decided that Gabi’s photograph with a pretty girl looking directly into your eyes was the winner of the Self-Portrait Category. They thought the cropped image, with Gabi and her parakeet both inclining their heads in a similar manner, showed how she relates the bird and the bird relates to her. They believed that the happy, contented, symbiosis of the pair was a raw and honest portrayal of freedom and friendship, and how her world is big enough to share with all those around her.

EVERYDAY LIFE CATEGORY. Rachel Burger, “Women in cahoots”



Rachel's entry, winner of the Everyday Life Category, shows two strong women, with bright smiles, sharing a meal while looking directly into the camera, in a shot that they set up together. The jury believed that Rachel captured a special moment in everyday life, which would ordinarily pass without notice, and immortalized it, leaving the viewer wondering, indeed, what were their conversations that evening?

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY. Channa Perelstein “Strong like a rock”



Channa's photograph, taken during a trip to Israel, transforms the physical environment into a natural image. The judges marvelled at her way of taking an inanimate rock formation, with its dryness, and dividing it directly through the center with life giving water. Her entry was voted winner of the Nature Photography Category.

CITY PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY. Tully Zygier “Rockefeller at his center”



The winner of the City Photography Category was Tully Zygier with a street scene in New York. The judge's thought that her shot works perfectly using accentuating highlights to coax the viewer in.

LIFE HISTORY CATEGORY Samantha Langer-McBride “I got here!”



Samantha took three photographs of her husband, child and dog, which proudly depict her beautiful family life. Each of the three simple images feature something pink, and speak from the heart about her happiness of being around the people she loves. Her collage was voted the winner of the Life History Category.

RUNNER UP. Rachael Eisenson "Goals in life"



The judges thought that Rachael's photograph featuring her brother and his teammates walking, with some trepidation, but relative confidence, towards their goal was a true reflection of how she sees life. Her powerful photograph, with the boys shot from the back, also portrays sibling dynamics. It tells us the story of her shared enjoyment in the pleasures of her brother and her enthusiasm for family life. Rachael, a promising young artist and a winner of last year's photography competition, was voted this year's Runner Up.

OVERALL WINNER. Jackie Goldberg "Piano daydream"



Amid strong competition, this year's Overall Winner was Jackie Goldberg, who, within 10 seconds of setting the timer on her camera, was able to get seated and start playing her piano. The judge's agreed that her image, "depicting a beautiful little girl, lost in the music, while absent-mindedly caressing her piano with her foot", was a soft and tender way of presenting to the world who she is. With the naturalness of a regular day, Jackie shows us all something she can master and something is proud of. Kapri Thomas, a concert

pianist overseeing the judging process, described her photograph as "An intriguing image, one that immediately draws you in, and leaves you wanting to know what she is playing".

The final verdict was that this collection of world class pictures from very special people.

Congratulations to each participant and all of the winners.

FD day 2010