

• JDPP Mentee Profile: Photographer Lena Stein



My photography is a journey, both physical and spiritual. I travel to places unknown, away from the tourists and crowds, wandering alone through the streets of various and usually poor communities. In the silence of a moment, I photograph someone whose language I do not speak, but with whom I make a very deep connection. At times I sense that I am on the brink of seeing something so universal – the same face, the same look - one that existed thousands of years before and will no doubt appear

again some time in our future. I see joy where others see only poverty, and I capture the heart through the eyes of the young and the very old - mostly women and children - in lands ranging from Nepal and India to Israel and Haiti. I hope that those who view my work will be inspired by the power of my connection to make connections of their own. The people I photograph touch me and I return to see them again and again. Searching out the same tiny communities, finding that one narrow street or tiny square, I return a few days later, or a year or in some cases even more. No matter where I travel, the human picture is the same. The world is one.

- Lena Stein,
photographer

As an artist, years devoted to the composition and color of painting and a fascination with fabrics and layers enhance Lena's unique ability to capture the vivid colors and intricate patterns of life in the communities that she photographs. In addition to individual shows and group exhibitions throughout Connecticut, Lena has also shown her work at the Murphy Keller Education Center in Little Rock, Arkansas and the Philadelphia International Institute Gallery. Lena has taught Art at the Montessori Magnet School at the Learning Corridor in Hartford since 2004.

In 2010, following the devastating earthquake, Lena traveled twice to Haiti. First with a medical mission organized by the Connecticut Haitian American Organization and two weeks later, deeply moved by the experience, she returned on her own. The breathtakingly beautiful images she discovered amidst the destruction bring hope to all who gaze into the eyes of the faces in her portraits.

Over the past three year's, Lena has also been involved with the Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford. With the Center's help, she visited Israel in the summer of 2010 and photographed at institutions and organizations that work with children with a multiplicity of handicaps. Her portraits of Jewish, Christian and Muslim children with special needs not only touch our hearts but also provide insights into the diversity of Israel and its multi-religious populations.



Upcoming Exhibitions:

- A Resilient Spirit: Selections from the Edith A. Graham Collection of Haitian Art
Photographs by Lena Stein and Patrick Raycraft
Widener Gallery in The Austin Art Center, Trinity College
January 27-March 10, 2011, Opening Reception: February 9, 4:30-6:30 pm.

Dedicated to the memory of those who perished during the disaster of January 12, 2010, the exhibition pays homage to the resilient spirit of the artists who continue the creative work of their predecessors in the post earthquake era.

- All of God's Children - Special Children and Special Needs
Singer Gallery of the Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization, University of Hartford
Photographs by Lena Stein, Art and artifacts from the Collections of Joe Grae and SusAnna Bernard Grae
February 13 – March 21, 2011, Opening Reception: February 13, 4:30-5:30 pm.

Inspiring photographs showcase another side of Israeli society that few people ever read about in the mainstream press. The exhibition introduces us to institutions dedicated to caring for and educating thousands of Jewish, Christian and Muslim children with special needs and disabilities.

For more on Lena Stein, visit: <http://lenastein.com/>

• Three Chances to Hear Women Of The Cross Live!

On Friday, January 28th Women of the Cross perform "We Shall Overcome" at the People's



Music Network Winter Gathering. The event features American folk icon, Pete Seeger, and begins at 7:30 pm at Bulkeley High School, 300 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford. Tickets are \$16-25. Call 860-299-6649 for more information.

On February 3rd the a capella group sings at **The Mash UP at Billings Forge**, an inspired mix of food, cultural arts, creativity and community. A \$10 wristband gives you access to all events and performances. WOTC performs from 6-6:30 pm at The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence Street, Hartford and immediately following at The Workshops at Billings Forge. Come enjoy classic a capella gospel songs combined with the group's own contemporary compositions. Several of their original pieces were written by Director Leslie Bird and performed by Bird and group members Leslie Manselle and Elaine Hairston in collaboration with our own JDPE. CD's will be available for purchase at the event. Find more information at www.billingsforgeworks.org.

WOTC also joins the **Hartford Symphony Orchestra** for "A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." at 10 am on February 23rd at the Bushnell Theater, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. The event, originally scheduled for January 13th, was postponed due to snow. They will sing "We Shall Overcome." Also on the program are musical excerpts from Beethoven, Copland, and DeFalla, the teachings of Reverend King and an original poem by 8th grader Angela Cooper. Hosting the celebration is Victoria Christgau, Executive Director of the CT Center of Nonviolence and fellow 2010 Tapestry Award winner. Matthew Aubin conducts the HSO. Tickets are \$7.50 for students. For information call



860-760-7328 or [contact education@hartfordsymphony.org](mailto:education@hartfordsymphony.org).

Support Women of the Cross and enjoy some great music!