



Silver Eye Center for Photography
1015 East Carson Street
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Map of Latin American Dreams **On View Now at Silver Eye**

(Pittsburgh, PA) Silver Eye Center for Photography proudly presents ***A Map of Latin American Dreams*** on view December 10, 2008 – March 7, 2009. This exhibition features 18 black-and-white portraits by Fellowship 2008 award recipient **Martín Weber**. Weber's social documentary photographs record the hopes and dreams of Latin Americans. By using their own words and handwriting on blackboards, the individuals portrayed are the anchors to their own narrative. Ten Honorable Mention photographers are exhibiting one picture each. Silver Eye Center for Photography, 1015 East Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203. **Gallery Hours:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 412.431.1810, www.silvereye.org

The **Opening Reception** will take place on Saturday, December 13, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. 1015 East Carson Street, South Side.

A Map of Latin American Dreams is an exhibition of images selected by Ariel Shanberg, Executive Director of The Center for Photography at Woodstock. A total of 299 Silver Eye members from 35 states and 2 foreign countries competed for a \$5,000 fellowship award as well as this juried exhibition at Silver Eye Center for Photography. Fellowship 2008 follows eight highly successful competitions and is made possible through the generosity of The Heinz Endowments.

This year's Fellow, Martín Weber, was born in Chile and raised in Argentina. He currently lives in Brooklyn, New York but travels frequently to Latin America to collect images of the people who reside in its numerous territories. Weber's social documentary work captures the dreams of these people. He asks his subjects to write their aspirations and desires on a small blackboard, which is then incorporated into the portrait. Some participants hope "to be a lawyer" or "to work" while others dream "that there not be so much bloodshed" or "that my parents smile again." His ongoing project is an effort to preserve the history of a people in a world of constant flux. Many of these people live in fear or poverty and Weber gives them the opportunity and power to express their desires for a different and often better life. With the current global climate, this work reminds us that we should take nothing for granted, that in an instant our history may be rewritten and yet we have nothing if can not hold onto our dreams. By participating in Weber's project, the subjects of the photographs are preserving their own story and ability to dream.

In Weber's artist statement he explains, "I look to amplify the voices of the underrepresented, to give them dimension through personal stories, and reflect on how the history of the past decades of each country has affected the history of its individuals and families in the context of their daily life and expectations. Intimate hopes that otherwise remain veiled, reveal a history that otherwise may not be written."

These images of Latin Americans and their personal dreams range from childhood aspirations of a career (*I want to be a police woman*. Maclovio Rojas, Mexico-U.S. border) to the desire

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for truth and resolution (*To know the truth about what happened to our relatives so the torturers do not stay unpunished*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Juror, Ariel Shanberg, explains the project, "Over the course of 15 years and travels to the 21 countries that comprise Latin America, Weber has compiled a visual archive which stands as testimony to the complexity of human existence and as tribute to our shared wants and desires. Through his process in which his subjects are invited to share a dream or desire, and then juxtaposed with their expressed want, captured in the midst of their reality, Weber creates a bridge which has the potential to connect us all, bypassing such stumbling blocks as natural and man-made borders and cultural, linguistic, and racial boundaries. His images reverberate with a sense of hope, of possibilities, and remind us of the strength which our dreams give us."

Artist Biography:

Martín Weber is Argentinean, (b.1968 in Chile), and resides in Brooklyn, NY. He studied at the University of Buenos Aires, and the International Center of Photography, New York. In 2005, Weber was awarded a grant from the No Strings Foundation, He received The Prince Claus Grant (2004), two grants from the Hasselblad Foundation (2001/1999) and The Guggenheim Fellowship (1998). He has also been an artist in residence at The Center of Photography at Woodstock (2004), Lightwork, Syracuse, New York (2002) and IASPIS, Sweden (1998). Solo and group exhibitions include The Project, Los Angeles (2004) and New York (2002); Center of Photography at Woodstock, The Photographer's Gallery, London (2003); The Robert Menshel Gallery, Lightwork, Syracuse, New York (2003); PHotoEspaña, Madrid, Spain (2001); Le Mois de La Photo, Paris, France, Maison de l'Amerique Paris, (2000); The International Center of Photography, New York (1999); The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas (1997). International exhibits include: La Habana Biennial (1996); The Istanbul Art Biennial (1997); the Communa de Milano (1996); The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires (1996).

The following **Ten Honorable Mention Photographers** are each exhibiting one image:

Scott Goldsmith, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jay Gould, Ruston, Louisiana
Lori Hepner, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Joseph O. Holmes, Brooklyn, New York
Allison Hunter, Houston, Texas

Christopher Jordan, Troy, New York
Michael Nixon, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Sarah Stonefoot, Madison, Wisconsin
Cole Thompson, Laporte, Colorado
Jennifer Williams, New York, New York

To request an interview with Martín Weber or any of the other exhibiting photographers and/or a CD with images, please call Amanda Bloomfield at 412/431.1810, ext. 12 or email her at abloomfield@silvereye.org.

The exhibition is complemented by several upcoming public programs, including: **Personal Photoshop Classes** on Thursday, January 8, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., **Sorting and Storing Your Digital Photographs Seminar** on Saturday, January 17, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., **Photo Safari: Focus on Grant Street** on Saturday, February 28, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and **Portfolio Reviews** on Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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Fellowship 2008 is made possible by a generous grant from The Heinz Endowments. Broadcast media sponsorship is kindly provided by DUQ/90.5 FM and WYEP/91.3 FM.

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The mission of Silver Eye Center for Photography is to serve the public through exposure to a wide range of work by locally, nationally and internationally recognized photographers. A Pittsburgh institution since 1985, Silver Eye Center for Photography is the oldest non-profit organization in Western Pennsylvania dedicated solely to the understanding, appreciation, education, and promotion of photography as an art form and as an expressive form of visual communication.

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