

a photographic

ESSAY



A Loyola Marymount University student in Los Angeles creates an unusually sensitive photo essay. We have reproduced only a segment of it here; it originally covered an entire wall and had neighborhood graffiti painted across the photos, adding the final touch of reality.

It has always been easy for me to express myself on paper, or with a combination of photographs and supportive texts. With this project, however, I wanted to create a set of photographs that would be able to work by themselves or as the primary source of an artistic statement in concert with other forms of media.

Working under the tutelage of mentor/instructor Patrick Nagatani, assistant professor of studio arts at Loyola Marymount and a well-

regarded contemporary artist in Los Angeles, I explored the Hispanic cultural segment of the town of Fillmore, California, located in one of the largest citrus-producing areas in the world.

My aim with these prints was to create an atmosphere that made a statement of these people's concern for stability, the family and religious ties, and to emphasize that theirs is a culture different from that of the people of the barrios of East Los Angeles, less than 50 miles away.

The selected pictures here are from a group of ninety prints recently exhibited at Loyola Marymount. During the exhibition other forms of media were added to the prints, including sound, video and graffiti, to create a multimedia event while retaining the basic core of the photographs.

The equipment used included Pentax ME super and MX 35 mm cameras, 24 mm, 50 mm and 85 mm lenses and black-&-white Tri-X pan film.

Peter Meyers



break into Kodak's

BREAK

Good news: we need student photographic essays for future issues of Break.

Better news: we'll pay 100 actual U.S. dollars for each photo essay we print.

A photo essay is a series of photographs unified by a central theme or subject, with a personal point of view. Each essay submitted must be accompanied by a prose essay (one or two double-spaced pages) explaining the reasons for choosing the subject, the impact the essay had on subject, viewers and photographer, and special techniques (if any) that were used.

Be sure to include name, address and your age, plus the name of your college on the essay. Print your name on every photograph. We will return all photographs . . . eventually.

The \$100 covers first time North American rights; you still own the pictures. Do not dawdle; we need to choose a winner by the first of January 1983. Send to: Break essay, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

postcards. Any photograph of you, by you, or having nothing whatever to do with you, could make a perfect postcard. If you decide to use these as your Christmas or holiday cards or even year-round stationery, throw caution to the winds. Make a Personal Statement. If, however, you decide to use postcards as gifts for friends and relatives (perhaps transforming your parents' vacation pictures into a multi-pic remembrance for them), be discreet and tasteful. Almost any photo developer can make a picture into a picture postcard; call around for the best prices. Or make your own (see "Mounting," below).

photo collage. This is the easiest photo gift of all, since it requires very little equipment and almost no additional cash. You'll need plain cardboard for mounting, scissors, and glue. Just cut out several photographs that Mean Something to the recipient, and paste them down in a bizarre or conventional way. These can be extremely simple and effective (your face suspended in a blue sky) or crammed to the edge with everything you can make fit. Be sure to cut the pieces on an angle, so they'll lie flat without curling and without sharp delineations. Arrange them all exactly as you want, and then remove every piece down to the bottom and build it back up, gluing (spray mounting glue is best here — it doesn't adhere immediately, in case you change your mind) as you go.

hand-tinting. This process, usually done on old photographs in muted pastels, gives a lovely effect, and it is not difficult. It's

more or less like a coloring book — follow the directions in the package of oils or pencils (obtainable at most photo supply stores), and practice first on a substitute photo (preferably a copy of the one you're giving). Flesh tones are tricky, but not impossible.

mounting. Mounting a photograph requires special equipment — a mounting press, mounting board, and heat-activated adhesive tissue, all available in photo supply houses and most campus photo labs. If you are unfamiliar with the process, hire someone to help or complete the job, because a mistake could be costly. The extra expense is justifiable here, because you're left with a hefty, solidly backed photograph (particularly nice for an 8" x 10" or larger picture) suitable for framing. The backing may be flush with the photograph, or a half-inch or so may be left around all sides, making its own frame. An even more dramatic effect is achieved by mounting a relatively small picture off-center on a larger board.

It is also possible to mount pictures using an iron; be sure to memorize the instructions (which should have come with the mounting tissue) before you start, and be careful.

To hang these mounted beauties, you don't really need a frame or wire. If the pictures are small, use double-faced tape. Larger pictures can be suspended with mounting putty, available at art supply houses. Since both the tape and putty can damage walls, proceed with caution.

photographs as

GIFTS



ah, the holidays.

There may not seem to be much cause for rejoicing in these troubled times, but we'd like to offer a tiny silver lining: suggestions for nifty and inexpensive gifts for your friends and family, personally crafted with your own nimble fingers — so easy you can finish most of them before mid-terms.

Give a photograph. Give several photographs. But make each one special: create a postcard, hand-tint an old family photograph, make a photographic collage, or manufacture a sturdy no-need-for-framing mounted picture. Details above.