



**ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY WINNER**  
 "Jelly" by Mark Hecaté

The twilight hours of Srinson Beach, Calif., about 35 miles northwest of San Francisco, provided the natural melancholy lighting for Mark Hecaté's photograph. The waves washed up the tentacle-less invertebrate specimen like a sea slug. This subject was sprawled upon the grainy sand, upturned and facing the viewer, as Hecaté's foot-steps in the drab sand approached its lifeless meaty stop.

"I was down there two years ago for a housewarming party for my brother and his wife," he said. "I had my camera with me as I was walking down the beach, and I saw this jellyfish. I knelt down and shot it."

Hecaté, a 40-year-old gay information technology director, printed this photo at Walgreens from his Cannon Powershot G-3.

"It's the only time I printed a photo," he said. "I take a lot of snapshots, but I don't take the time to compile a portfolio."

Hecaté says he casually takes pictures of friends and family members during events and social gatherings. In his spare time, he helps his independent filmmaker husband with casting and acting. You can visit Hecaté's blog at [www.eriserville.com](http://www.eriserville.com).



Staff Pick

*"Sebastian" by John Battiste*

The first time I looked at the picture it immediately made me think of a warm, sunny day at the dog park playing fetch with a hyper-playful pup. The way the camera blurred out the grassy background while still keeping the vibrant color green really made the dog jump out and come to life. The texture of his fur and crisp, glassy eyes really caught my attention. The dog has the perfect curious expression on his face, as if he were looking at me in question of something.

CHRIS KRAMER  
 Administrative Manager

*"Untitled" by Eric Luna*

This ultra-retro model evoked a lesson by an art history professor at University of California, Santa Barbara. Always donning black from head to toe, my New York second wave feminist instructor would have juxtaposed the model's party mouth and hair with her empty, unfulfilled eyes. Is this photo a social commentary on the expectations of modern superwomen versus their disappointing reality or an example of eye shadow blended to perfection?

JAYMEE R. CUTI  
 News Editor



Staff Pick

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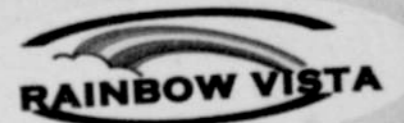
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