

PHOTOGRAPHER FINDS INSPIRATION ON COUNTRY ROAD

Diana Hausam was looking for places to photograph along a county road near Winslow when she came across a bicycle fence. She left a note that she would like to photograph the fence, and artist Tim West soon sent back a letter telling her to park at his fence, honk three times, and he would then come out to meet her.

He did. And when she saw him emerge out of the thick woods, she immediately knew that he would be her subject.


“He is the most interesting and artistic man I have ever met,” says Diana. What started out as an environmental portrait session turned into a full-blown documentary project. She has been photographing Tim for over three years, taking pictures that tell his story through portraits, his environment, and his art.

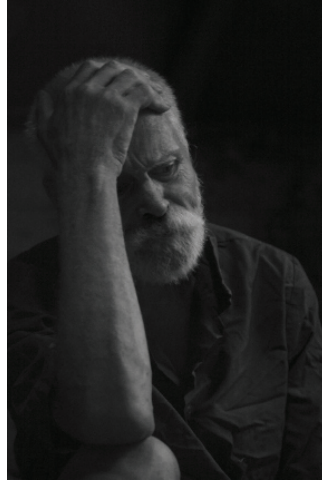
Hausam, who graduated in 2009 with a degree in photography, says that in her work she strives to focus on abandoned subjects and reveal “the beauty of neglect.”

“In so much art the beauty is obvious; I challenge myself to find the un-obvious beauty and bring that to the viewer. The process of time and decay is what drives

my creativity. I want to be able to capture that in such a way that there is no denying its beauty,” she explains.

Hausam is the recipient the National Museum of Women in the Arts 2009 Annual Bibba Pruet Scholarship, Arkansas Chapter. With this scholarship, she will be documenting the Gypsy Camp for Girls near Siloam Springs, which started as an artist colony in 1921. It became a private summer camp for girls in 1924 and continued until 1978. The property was listed as a National Register Historic District in 1988, a designation pursued by local citizens in the face of condemnation and demolition by the city.

The 60-plus acre property also includes several large protective bluffs and caves that hold archaeological significance as a Native American pre-historical site. Hausam will use a large format camera that she purchased with the scholarship money to document the camp in its present state. In April she and West will hold a two-person show at the Anne Kittrell Gallery on campus. 



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