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documenting ordinary people

the art of seeing.

photographer – is a visualizer

- artist
- reporter / communicator
- opinion maker [through point(s)-of-view]
- combination of two or all three

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jagath dheerasekara

photography – is a process of visualisation

- an art
 - can be measured by content / artistic merit
 - can be acquired by practice
- a craft
 - can be measured by technical quality / print – slide quality / focusing
 - can be acquired by practice
- a science
 - would deal with test charts to test lenses / calibrated grey cards and grey scales / curves & levels in Photoshop CS2 ®
 - can be acquired by learning / experimenting / testing

photograph – is a result of visualisation

- physical
 - written by light
 - on a medium
 - recording / capturing
 - film – chemical process
 - memory chip – digital / pixels
 - displaying / outputting / reproduction
 - slide
 - paper
 - RGB screen
- abstract / philosophical
 - unreal representation of real world – recording a moment
 - a piece of art / conveying of a message

a few things to remember – mantra

- eye goes to white
- meter the light not the subject
- resolve the subject
- resolve the angle / composition
- resolve the background
- fewer subjects covered with more films / digital images
- overall / medium / detail – *less is more !*
- all good flash is flash fill
- anticipate and solve the problem

a few things to do – good habits

- make more and more photographs
- see others' work – specially ones that have been ranked as extraordinary
- show your work to the others and discuss [keep in mind that comments are subjective and not always the absolute truth]
- Critique your own work continuously
- try to develop own style / identity

a few things to look at – critiquing / art of seeing

- art related
 - frame
 - angle / composition
 - starting point
 - light / shadow
 - colour / tone
 - noise / grain
 - texture / pattern
- craft related
 - aperture
 - motion / time / shutter

a few sites to visit – good reference points

- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/100best/index.html>
- <http://www.magnumphotos.com/>
- <http://www.nikon.co.jp/main/eng/feelnikon/gallery/index05.htm>
- http://www.henricartierbresson.org/index_en.htm
- <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/cb/>
- <http://www.anseladams.com/>

writing essays with pictures.

photo essay – is a story with a point of view

- collection of pictures
- sometimes supported by text
- communicates a message / point of view
- powerful because
 - It touches a powerful sensory organ – eye
 - It is a managed presentation : selective in what is being presented and what not
 - It creates or has a potential to create an opinion
- Two kinds
 - vertical & horizontal

a few all time greats – to study

- Walker Evens
- Ben Shahn
- Dorothea Lange
- Russell Lee
- Sol Libsohn
- Arthur Leipzig
- Lee Friedlander
- Paul Strand
- W Eugene Smith
- Andre Kertesz
- Garry Winogrand
- Diane Arbus
- Henry Cartier-Bresson
- Robert Frank

Jagath Dheerasekara grew up in the coastal town of Matara, in southern Sri Lanka.

Jagath developed his interest in photography in the mid-90s. His photographic work, executed in both black and white and colour, has been exhibited at international exhibitions held at several venues including the Royal Photographic Society of the United Kingdom and the Hasselblad Austrian Super Circuit. In 2003 he participated in a charity exhibition in support of a nutrition programme for children, organized by our Seasons. Camera Sketches, his maiden solo exhibition, was held in Stockholm in 2004 at the invitation of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden. Jagath's interests cover a wide range; his preference lies in social documentary photography. He believes that as an art-form, photography can contribute to social change. In 2005 he worked with Photo Voice, a United Kingdom based organization conducting photographic workshops for youngsters affected by the tsunami in southern Sri Lanka. Jagath's essay on the lives of cinnamon peelers was exhibited together with nine other photographers in May this year as a part of the Imagine Tropics workshop and exhibition organized by the Goethe Institute in Colombo. 'Song of the Unsung, collection of Jagath exhibited was exhibited at the Foyles Gallery, London.

www.jd.slt.lk



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