

Inside the Artist - Meredith Goodwin July 2015



Meredith is the 2015 recipient of the Across Roads Center for the Arts Mitch Siegel Award. Enthusiastic and passionate, Meredith took a few moments, post-graduation, to share a bit about her life and interest in pursuing art as a career. Meredith will be attending the University of Denver in Colorado this fall as a student in film study and production.



Tell us about your journey in art / as an artist.

Basically, I've been doing art my whole life. My mom was an artist and performer and my father was a painter and carpenter. Since I was young, I've loved to create and my mom taught me many different things.

I went to Rwanda (through the school based Study Travel program at Harwood Union High School) in both my sophomore and senior years. My friend Molly and I decided to create a pen pal program between the Good Samaritan pre-school in Rwanda and children in the Valley schools and Thatcher Brook Primary School. I took footage of kids at Good Samaritan and got to interview the kids as well as film. While I was interviewing, the

person filming accidentally deleted the footage. While I did not come out with a finished product, the experience of being on the other side of the camera was a good one. I would do it again, even if I still didn't get the footage.

During my senior year at Harwood, I started taking photography classes. It was during this class that I really started creating stuff that I could share with everyone else.

Senior year was also the pilot year for film studies at Harwood. It was cool to be in the "guinea pig" group. We tested what projects worked and what didn't. And we still got to make movies! Three of the projects we worked on were...

- Creating a video to go with instrumental music. I focused on feelings
- Creating a sequence of events. I did a video shoot of a morning routine, from waking up to literally slipping out the door.
- The pen pal project with friend Molly and my sister Sally

What is the medium you most like to work with/in? What draws you to this medium? What do you like about your materials?

I really like working with videos. You can tell a story and video gives you the ability to bring people to a new place; places that they may never experience on their own. I was able to take people to Rwanda and I think that it's amazing!

I also love watching movies and seeing behind the scenes. I'm drawn to the intensity of movies and the power they have in our modern culture.'

What most inspires your work - Has there been anything that has been life changing or that has influenced your practice?

This year's Rwandan trip. The students from the previous year's trip had made a video project on the women of Rwanda. I wasn't a part of that trip, but during this year's trip, we took the completed video back to Rwanda to show to the women that were filmed. One woman in particular, her name was Josephine. When she saw herself in the video, her whole face lit up! She was so happy to be able to share her story with others. It reinforced how I felt about filming and how amazing it is to be able to make people feel and feel great about what they see on the screen. Both my sophomore and senior year trips were life

changing.

After college I would like to join the Peace Corps. I really like traveling around and hearing other people's stories.



What blogs or books are you reading or would recommend?

I just finished *The Kite Runner* (Khaled Hosseini) which was really good. I also finished *Scar Tissue*, by Anthony Kiedis of the Red Hot Chile Peppers. It was such an intense book and was inspirational in how amazing his life turned out.



Check back later this year at www.arcostrroads.org to find out about Meredith's experiences as a first year student in film production.