

## Society for Photographic Education South Central Regional Conference

Shared information with SPE Conference /Summary letter

I am writing to ask for the results that you might be able to share at this point from the study you were a part of with TASA on traditional and digital photography programs. I will be on a panel at the Regional conference for the Society for Photographic Education South Central Region. Any information you can share about your study would be very helpful for our discussion. I will report on our findings and give you a summary after the conference. The conference will be the 30th of October. Thank you, Christopher Talbot (SPESCR panelist)

Details of the moderated panel:

### **INTEGRATING DIGITAL INTO THE CURRICULLUM**

*That our practice is in the midst of a profound transformation is no news to anyone. However, the implications of this change are far from settled. How, where and to what extent we integrate these new techniques into the curriculum is an open question. How important is retention of traditional chemical based photography in photographic education? Should we keep some, all or none of it in the curriculum? Can photography be effectively taught without reference to and practice of these fundamental techniques?*

*I believe these are the central questions facing us as we begin a new chapter in the history and practice of photography. Will silver based photography be relegated to a kind of boutique practice along with the alternative processes or remain a mainstream practice? Will materials for silver based photography continue to be available for the foreseeable future?*

*Silver based photography is a mature technology. The materials and equipment continue to be tweaked, but the basic practices and techniques don't change. Most of us have not had to learn anything new for quite a while. Clearly, digital requires us to master new techniques and equipment. The rapidly evolving technology requires far more frequent upgrades, and maintenance becomes a much more costly and complex problem. A lab tech who can handle pliers and a screw driver is no longer sufficient. We will need program IT people to keep everything running properly.*

*The speakers of this roundtable will make short presentations on how their programs have begun to implement digital, and their thoughts on the best way to do this. Then we will open the discussion to the audience in an effort to generate a useful dialogue and share ideas.*

**Lawrence Jasud** (moderator)

I was born in Chicago, attended public schools (K-12) and served in the Army. I attended Southern Illinois University as an undergraduate, and Ohio State for graduate school. I've been teaching photography at the University of Memphis longer than I care to admit. That's all you get in 50 words.

**Christopher Talbot**

Christopher Talbot is a photography and Digital Media professor at Stephen F Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He holds a BFA degree in Photography from BYU and an MFA from U of H in Photography and Digital Media. His most recent exhibit was a part of Fotofest 2008 in Houston Texas.

**Doug Clark**

Doug Clark is an Assistant Professor of Photography at Jackson State University in Jacksonville, AL. He received his MFA from Central Washington University in 2005. He recently finished designing a new photography facility and curriculum that focuses on a digital workflow while still addressing the need and importance of film and alternative processes.

**Jessica Westbrook** /font>

Jessica Westbrook is an artist working with images, semiotics, and information design. Her projects explore desire, cues, and contradictory sensations that vacillate between fortune and catastrophe. Westbrook received her MFA from Tyler School of Art and has exhibited nationally and internationally. She is Assistant Professor of Art at UT Chattanooga.

**Phillip Andrew Lewis**

Phillip Andrew Lewis teaches and heads the photography + media program at

the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. In 2005, he established Medicine Factory, a contemporary art space in downtown Memphis. Lewis has exhibited widely is also the recipient of the 2007-2008 Individual Artist Fellowship from the Tennessee Arts Commission, 2008 Public Art Grant from the Urban Art Commission, Digital Art Commission from APSU New Media Program, and selected for Magenta Foundation Flash Forward 2008.