

Book Review:

'Through the Lens' UBD's advanced photography students' photo-book.

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Imagine a class where you explore the magnificence and uniqueness of your own country, its colourful culture and its remote wilderness, through the lens of a camera. This was the experience for a group of advanced photography students at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Often getting up before dawn the class ventured out on photographic excursions around Brunei. Locations included Kampong Ayer, Kianggeh dry market, the Gadong night market, the Temburong rainforest, Sungai Brunei to find the proboscis monkeys, and Wasai Batu Mapan.

Between excursions, classes were held in the university's multi-media lab with discussions of technique, quality, and creativity of the images; what worked, what didn't, and why. The class also visited the professional photographic studio of local photographer David Cheok and met with award-winning wildlife photographers, C.S. Ling and Ethan Lim from Singapore.

The culmination of these field trips as well as the hours sorting and editing images is an A5 sized, seventy-two page book with the title 'Through the Lens: 2012/2013 Advanced Photography Photobook'. 'Through the Lens' is printed with a black background throughout and each student has three double-page spreads to showcase their photography. The students (in order as they appear in the book) are Abu, Bash, Bailey, Irene, Habri, Mardhiah, Faiqah, Sally, Zuki, and Zach.

The students explain their process in the Preface: 'Photography was first introduced in UBD as part of an introductory module in 2011 under the Faculty Arts and Social Science's Professional Communication and The Media program. It gained popularity from various students of different majors and accepted a crowd of students that stretched beyond the quota limit. This beginner's class covered different photographic genres; learning and looking at several camera techniques and images from renowned photographers and applying these learned techniques in weekly photographic assignments. An advanced class was introduced in 2012 as a level 4000 module; comprising a smaller group of high achieving students. Unlike the previous photography module, the advanced class allows students to be more explorative and experimental with their own camera techniques, capturing their preferred photo genres and ultimately, produced individuals with distinct styles and abilities.'

A personal note from the books editor Chin Siew Yee (Sally) on page 2 states: 'It has been a delight to have this opportunity to showcase a collection of photographs from my peers and I. Never would we have thought a tiny class of ten students would have so much to offer from our excursions in the Abode of Peace. Often we take for granted what we see and hence, we hope this photo-book will remind you of the wonders in our country. It has been an exhilarating rollercoaster ride full of explorations of forests, streets, camera angles and friendships. The nights spent editing in front of computers with coffee on the side have been absolutely worthwhile. May this book encourage you to pick up a camera and a desire to capture a memory.'



Image 1: Photography students (L-R) Bailey, Mardhiah, Sally, working at Wasai Batu Mapan. Photo by Irene Molina.



Image 2: Some of the advanced photography class at The Canopy Walk, Temburong. Photo by Abu Hurairah Haji Mohammad.



Image 3: Gadong night market. Photo by (Habri) Mohd Habri Arsyad Bin Hj Awg Damit.



Image 4: Kianggeh dry market. Photo by (Habri) Mohd Habri Arsyad Bin Hj Awg Damit.



Image 5: Kianggeh dry market. Photo by (Bash) Abd Basyir Bin Hj Hamzah.

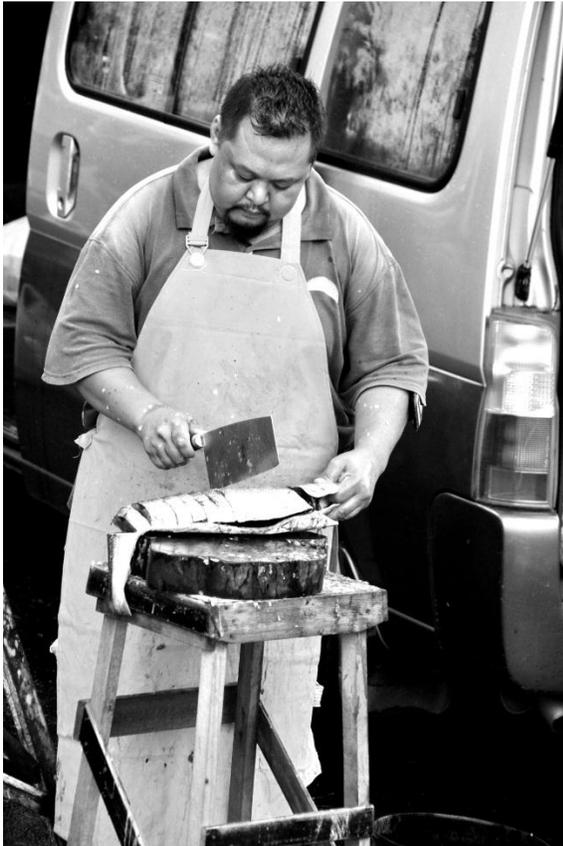


Image 6: Kianggeh dry market. Photo by (Bash) Abd Basyir Bin Hj Hamzah.



Image 7: Gadong night market. Photo by (Bailey) Tan May Yin



Image 8: Gadong night market. Photo by (Bailey) Tan May Yin



Image 9: Salesgirl, Kianggeh dry market. Photo by (Sally) Chin Siew Yee



Image 10: Gadong night market. Photo by (Sally) Chin Siew Yee



Image 11: Bandar Seri Begawan. Photo by (F a i q a h) Nurliyana Faiqah Hj Hamdam.



Image 12: Reflection of Mardhiah, Bandar Seri Begawan. Photo by (Faiqah) Nurliyana Faiqah Hj Hamdam



Image 13: Kampong Ayer Dreams, Photo by Irene Molina.



Image 14: Reflections, night market. Photo by Irene Molina.



Image 15: Kianggeh dry market, Bandar Seri Begawan. Photo by Abu Hurairah Haji Mohammad.



Image 16: Kianggeh dry market, Bandar Seri Begawan. Photo by Abu Hurairah Haji Mohammad.



Image 17: Sea Eagles, Sungai Brunei. Photo by (Zach) Haziq Sahminan.



Image 18: "As precious as pearls". Photo by (Zach) Haziq Sahminan



Image 19: Fish, Gadong night market. Photo by (Mardhiah) Nur Ar Mardhiah Bte Hj Mohd Akin



Image 20: Canal, Gadong. Photo by (Mardhiah) Nur Ar Mardhiah Bte Hj Mohd Akin



Image 21: Kampong Ayer. Photo by (Zuki) Marzuki Ahmad.



Image 22: Kampong Ayer, Photo by (Zuki) Marzuki Ahmad.



Image 23: Advanced photography students on a field trip to Sungai Brunei. Photo by Dr. Janet Marles.

Through the Lens

2012/2013 Advanced Photography Photobook



Image 24: 'Through the Lens: 2012/2013 Advanced Photography Photobook' cover, showing advanced photography students on a field trip to Sungai Brunei. Photo by Dr. Janet Marles.