Hello friends of the HCT Photo Dept. This newsletter summarizes the first semester and highlights what is to come for the department in the second semester of the 2013/2014 academic year. The goal of this newsletter is to visually showcase some of the outstanding student work with the other academic departments at HCT, as well as the community. Furthermore, it conveys the effort put into the department by all of the staff by highlighting the extracurricular learning opportunities organized by the department. We believe that a well rounded education comes not only in the classroom, but also through community engagement from workshops, lectures, exhibitions and other events. During the first semester the graduating students held their Grad Exhibition at Bait Al Baranda. In addition there were 2 organized field trips and 2 guest lecturers to the department. It’s through these events that students gain confidence in connecting with the community, reinforce their knowledge in various visual arts and get exposure to a variety of kinds of arts & photography professionals. We made a goal over a year ago to engage the community in multitude of ways, and for the last year, we have kept in line with that goal.
Graduation 2013
Final Projects

Bilquis Al Hinai

Bilquis focused on historical Architecture throughout Oman.

Entisar Al Nabhani

Entisar’s series merges several images together of the same person in various situations. It examines the series in which things happen in life, and how we change from minute to minute.

Hafsa Al Rawahi

Hafsa focused on food for her final project, working in the studio she created a small portfolio of raw and cooked ingredients.
Graduation 2013
Final Projects

Haytham Al Magrafi

Haytham chose to focus on modern male fashion in the Gulf.

Mohammed Al Ajmi

Mohammed focused on male fashion, creating surreal scenes through traditional Omani design in bold locations.

Omar Al Hajri

Omar’s visual narrative tells the story of a rich man at heart, stuck in a poor man’s life. Through realistic, documentary style images, Omar talks about the often taboo subject of homelessness.
Graduation 2013
Final Projects

Ruqaya Al Abdul Salam
Ruqaya chose to focus on traditional foods of the region. The images and foods are simple and are combined with nearly ancient props borrowed from an Omani museum.

Samia Al Zadjali
Samia’s project compliments her food portfolio with a collection of images telling the story of the rich spices that were once traded heavily in the region, giving reference to Oman’s trading past.

Within only 2 years students study a combination of Basic & Advanced Photography, Technical Photography, History of Photography, Photoshop, Video Production and Editing. However the courses are the easiest part of the program. The challenge for most artists is finding their professional niche or artistic passion. A broad spectrum of information & inspiration is given to students, and it’s up to them to decide where they want to focus their energy. These projects are a result of the three things which develop in the program, technical skill and visual literacy through courses, and self exploration as an artist through the students own growth. Although we wish the students had more time to grown within the department, we are always happy when they have come to the end having achieved a voice of their own. We hope all of our graduates will continue learning, continue growing and most of all, continue shooting. Good luck in your futures.
Khalid Al Busaidi visited the department to give a lecture about his journey into photography, and how he became the sole photographer for the Royal Opera House Muscat. His lecture was full of images marking his growth as the official photographer at the ROHM and his experiences over the last year. Khalid is a graduate of the HCT Photography Program and graduated in 2012. He was also chosen to study in the SUSI media training program at Washington University in the summer of 2012. The lecture was followed a week later by a visit to the Opera House in which students were able to tour, and better understand Khalid’s position at ROHM. We are proud of Khalid and hope that he will return for future lectures.
This is the second year which Reem has given her time to our department by sharing valuable information to the HCT photography students. Many students desire to start a studio, or a family portraiture business, but are not sure where to begin. Reem’s journey into photography is inspiring, particularly because she speaks about finding the genre that she actually loves. Her lecture also includes in depth information about the operations of a professional studio and the current market in Oman. She paints a realistic, yet inspiring picture of the dedication required to run a studio, while sharing personal stories from her interactions with clients. We hope to see Mrs. Reem back next year to share with the new students and show her ever growing portfolio.
Upcoming Events
Stay Posted

• Muscat Art Festival
March 9-12th the Photography Department will participate in Muscat Art Festival. The event is organized by the Muscat Municipality and is held throughout Muscat at various galleries, which will be exhibiting internationally acclaimed work. Furthermore, Thomas Haywood, a professional fine arts photographer from London will hold a series of lectures and workshops for the Photography Students of HCT.

• Gulf Photo Plus
The peninsula’s largest and most successful photography exhibition and workshop series will return to Dubai for the tenth year. The event includes lectures and workshops by world renowned, working commercial artists, along with a series of exhibitions throughout Dubai. Visit gulfphotoplus.com to register for a workshop or see the times of various lectures and exhibitions.

Congratulations!
Stay Posted

• Congratulations to Omar Al Hajri in joining the Ministry of Environmental & Climate Affairs
• Congratulations to Mohammed Al Ajmi in joining the Ministry of Manpower
• Congratulations to Haytham Al Magrafi in joining the Ministry of Education
• Congratulations to Bilquis Al Hinai in joining the Royal Oman Police
• Congratulations to Etisar Al Nabhani for joining the premier commercial studio, Photo Center Muscat.
• Congratulations to Samia Al Zadjali and family for welcoming baby