

hobby corner photography



Capturing a memorable image is about a lot more than just pointing and shooting, writes **Mimi Lau**

Getting the picture

INEZ WONG YUEN-WING'S AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPH OF A CAMBODIAN BOY PUZZLING OVER FOREIGN SWEETS.

Many of us hope to use photography to express the way we see the world around us but are not sure where to start.

That's not surprising. After all, there is a lot more to photography than simply pointing your camera and pressing the shutter button.

Besides light and angle, there are a host of skills and techniques which can transform your snaps into pictures that can be framed and hung on a wall.

One obvious first step is to take a course. Lumervisum, a photography workshop and exhibition space sponsored by

the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and founded by four veteran photographers, will be running various courses from September. The Hong Kong Art School also has courses for students who are 16 and older.

Many successful photographers, however, do it the hard way - they teach themselves through trial and error and by studying the images taken by masters of the art. If they are lucky they sometimes acquire a mentor along the way.

Take 18-year-old Inez Wong Yuen-wing. Last month, she won the Think Great Snapshot Competition - sponsored by Wiseman Education in

partnership with the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Parents' Association - despite the fact she is mostly self-taught.

"Sometimes I'll shoot with Dad's digital single-lens reflex camera when I come across a spectacular scene. Dad's been teaching me a lot about photography along the way," she says.

Inez started taking pictures two to three years ago after her father gave her an automatic point-and-shoot camera for her birthday.

Photo Editor of the *South China Morning Post* Chris Walton was one of the competition's judges, and he says diligence is the key

factor in getting the right pictures.

According to Mr Walton, some photographers work in areas they know to come up with images, while others have an image in mind and work to make it happen.

"Each approach has its advantages, but producing a winner is definitely about diligence," Mr Walton says.

"Making a good photograph is not simply a matter of luck or visual creativity, although those things do certainly play into it," he says, adding that knowing where to be at the right time was essential to getting the right image.

"Think about the image you want to make and how you can

go about improving the odds of making it happen. Then examine your work with a critical eye. Does it tell the story you want to tell? Does it do so in a clear and effective way? Is it aesthetically pleasing? When you show your work to others, do they understand the image in the way you want them to?

"If the answer to any of these questions is no, then you have to be prepared to go back and do it again until you get something that you are happy with."

Lumervisum can be contacted at 3177 9159 or by visiting the website: www.lumervisum.org; The Hong Kong Art School can be contacted at 2922 2822.

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