

Date: Wed, 21 Aug 2002 14:08:11 -0400

Dear Pedro, I am glad to read that you are recovering and back to filling Zonezero with all of the thoughtful and amusing insights those of us who read it expect to find there. I teach at Kutztown University, in rural Pennsylvania. Last semester on my suggestion, Prof. Cheryl Agulnick brought your work to our campus, much to the delight of my photography students. We had wonderful discussions about the work and you kindly replied to their questions, which made them feel important and connected to the world of art, in ways it is sometimes hard to feel out here, living as we do, among the cornfields.

Since their experience with your work was so positive, and since I always enjoy what I find on your site, I've decided to use Zonezero as the official "textbook" for my advanced photo class. Each semester, I usually have a mini-seminar in the large studio class, where we read a book, look at some images, think and talk a bit. We've used a German/English catalog, "Conceptual Photography" one semester; Robert Coles book, "Doing Documentary Work;" "The Body and the Lens;" and several others. Most of the students enjoy it, and it surely helps move them beyond the myth of the artist as mute, naif, visionary.

Because this is a state institution, many of the students have trouble reading and writing, making theory quite a stretch for them. But I want them to encounter ideas!! So I decided your website would be an excellent source of ideas and images, and would help nudge people along toward digital image-making. (I am working very hard to move us out of the 19th century and

into the 21st. But there is not much money and my colleagues are scared that what they do will become irrelevant, or that students will not longer enroll in their classes. It has been an uphill battle the past four years, but we are finally making some headway. The first Digital Photography class in Fine Art was offered last term.) Now I have students in the Photo Studio who are beginning to think about these issues. I am looking forward to exploring Zonezero as a teaching tool. Although I have plenty of ideas about how to approach this, I wonder if you care to throw in your two cents about how to use Zonezero as a tool in a photo class.

Best wishes for your continued recovery, Leigh Kane

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