

Darkness and Light

Dramatic lighting can be produced from many sources: sunlight, street lamps — even a cigarette. AUT's photojournalism class got creative and produced some stunning results.

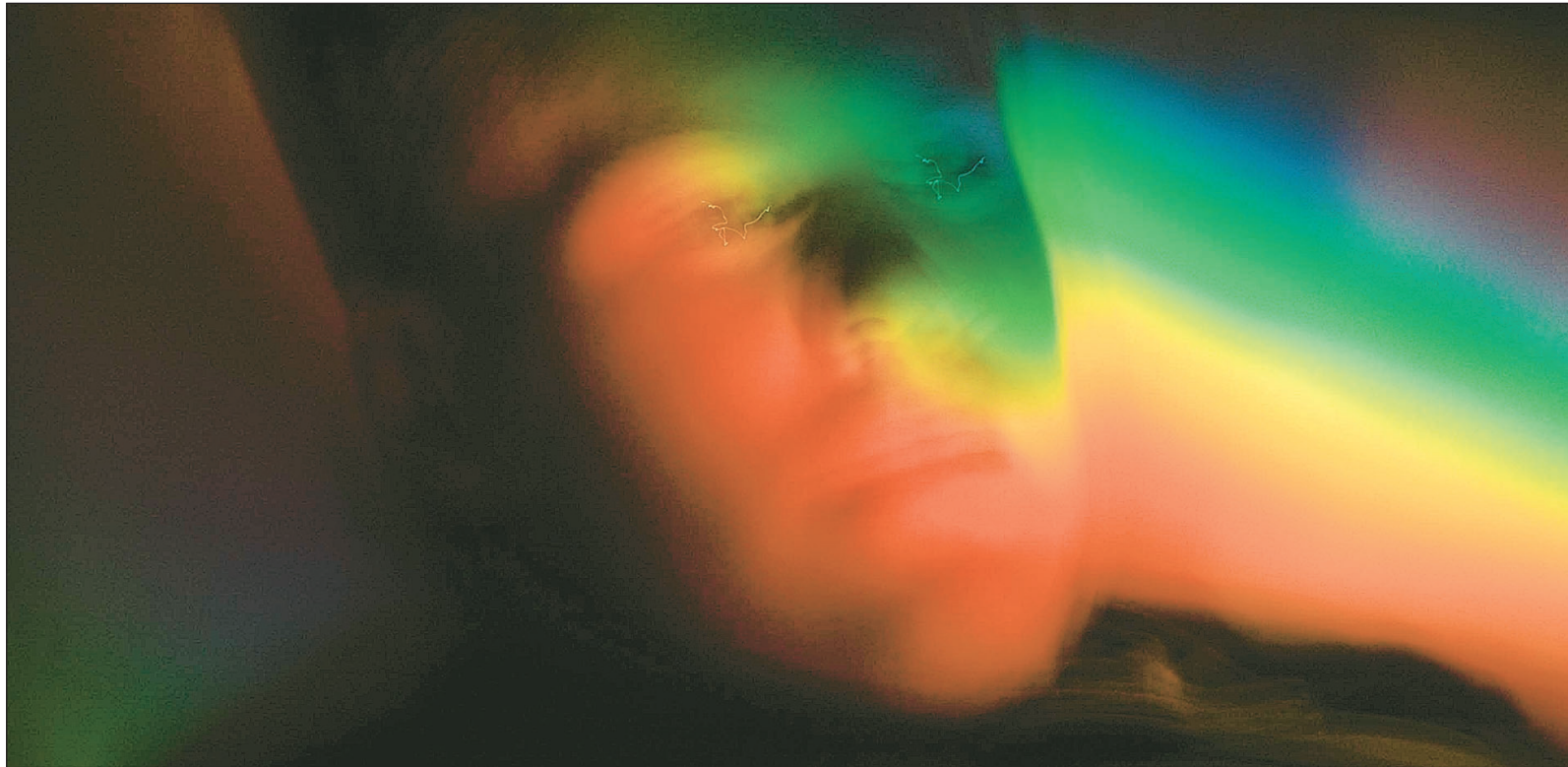


PHOTO: SARAH WORTHINGTON

The right lighting can produce dramatic results, as AUT photojournalism students recently discovered.

Using simple methods like shining a torch onto a compact disc or simply asking a friend to look up into the light, the students came up with these images, capturing in essence what good lighting can do to enhance a photo.

Adrian Malloch, freelance photographer and photography tutor at AUT, was overwhelmed by the results.

He said the students exceeded his expectations, and that several of the photos were good enough to be published in professional magazines.

The photos tell a story in themselves, be it a captivating moment from a child's performance or capturing the soul of the late winter sun.

Photojournalism student Megan Murphy photographed her subject, Tiffany Park, on the sand dunes at Piha.

"I decided that the best lighting I could think of was the sun. I know that if you get it at the right angle you can get some really nice shadows and highlights," she said.

Suenje Paasch-Colberg produced the same stunning results when she photographed New Zealand band Katchafire backstage at the AUT Maori Expo earlier this month.

She took advantage of the bright on-stage lighting and the dramatic shadows it produced on a massive wooden carving.

"I like the fact that it looks like the mask is alive," she said.

The students work on a weekly basis, with a new assignment covered each week. In addition to dramatic lighting they have done environmental portraits, group shots and photos of performers.

Ranging in composition, these photographs are just a taste of what the students can achieve with a digital camera.

— Jan Birkeland and Catherine Westwood

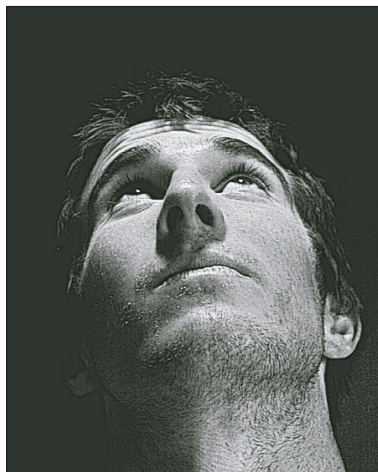


PHOTO: JAN BIRKELAND



PHOTO: LUCY GRIGG



PHOTO: SUENJE PAASCH-COLBERG



PHOTO: MEGAN MURPHY



PHOTO: SUMMER HAMILTON

