

C.A.T.S.

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 secret in
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Hours:
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Historic Covered McKee Bridge
 on the Applegate River close to lakes.

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Photographic documentary of life in the Applegate Valley

BY MELISSA B. FISCHER

Ashley Valmere Fischer, an alumna of the Tisch School of Photography & Imaging at New York University, spent the summer of 2007 getting to know people living in the McKee Bridge area of the Applegate and chronicling their life with her camera. She really got at the heart of the place, and the McKee Bridge Project was exhibited on Broadway in New York City this last winter. Photos from the Applegate Valley were so well regarded in the Big Apple, that Ashley was subsequently awarded a grant to continue this project in the coming year.

The McKee Bridge photo-documentary exhibit consisted of 32 photographs showing life in the valley—boys playing on the Applegate River; men playing dominoes at the McKee Bridge Park and goat farmers going about their milking chores. Some photos were just truly beautiful—a late afternoon view of the valley from Woodrat Mountain, and Applegate Lake on a cloudy day. Accompanying the photos were Ashley's notes about the experience, "Here I am, a stranger whom the locals have accepted, like the heat at noon on a summer day."

The exhibit was on display January 24 to February 16, 2008 at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts on Broadway. As the 2008 recipient of the Rosenberg Grant, Ashley will hold another exhibit with her continued work on the Applegate Valley in the Fall of 2009.

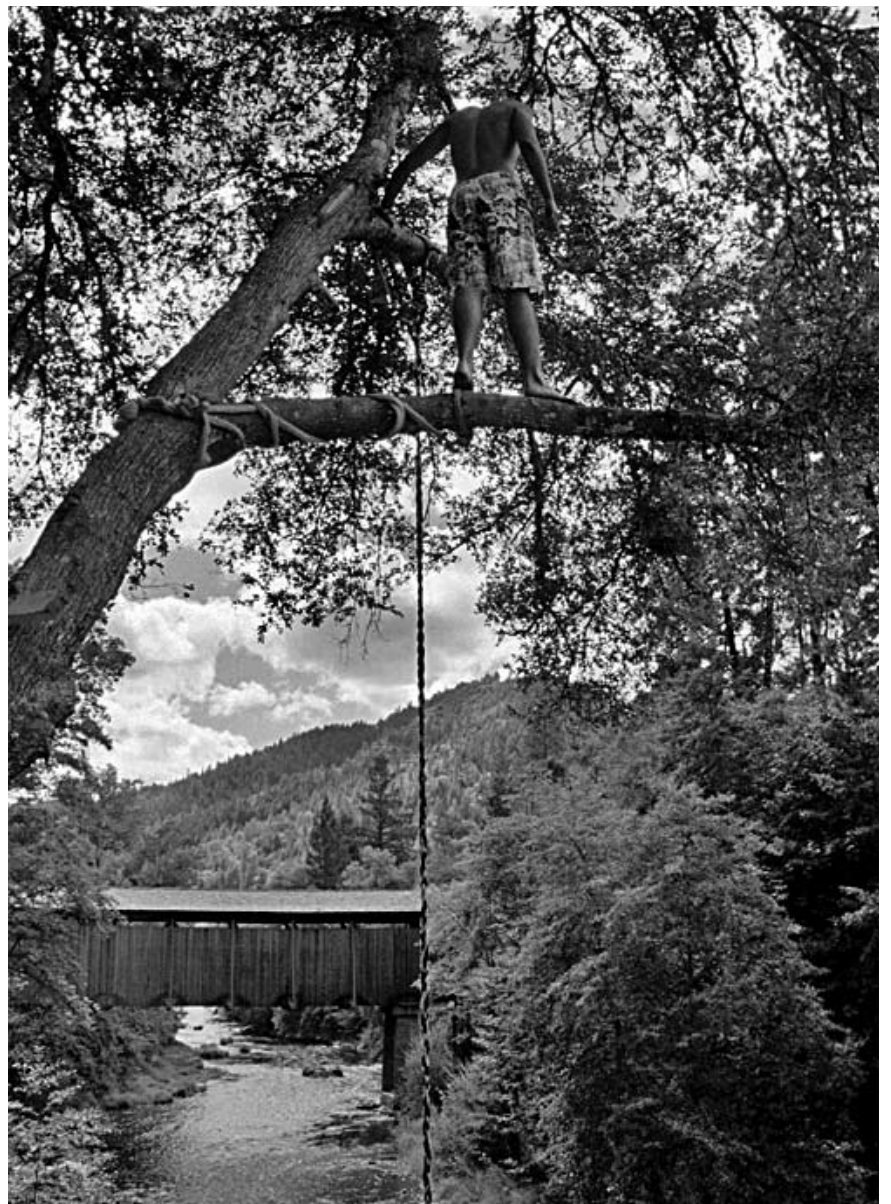
Ashley is establishing herself as a documentary photographer of some talent. In 2007 she won an award from SIT Study Abroad South America for her photographs from that region. She is now digital assistant for Susan Meiselas of Magnum Photos, a very prestigious photographic cooperative established in 1947 in Europe. Magnum is now worldwide.

The McKee Bridge Project, and other collections, can be seen on Ashley's web site, www.ashleyvalmere.com

From Ashley's notes –

*"The air smells like smoke
 and rain,
 forest fires on a cloudy day.
 Whatever we need,
 we build with our hands.
 Either the solitude has made
 us crazy,
 or the mountains have made
 us wise.*

Melissa B. Fischer
 541-899-1768



"While there is perhaps a province in which the photograph can tell us nothing more than what we see with our own eyes, there is another in which it proves to us how little our eyes permit us to see."

~Dorothea Lange