

Jen Ritchie – Jones has been teaching in Special – Education since 1982. Writing a thesis on Self Esteem through Photography led to an exhibition in 1997 at the George Hotel in St.Kilda called 'Leap of Faith'. The opening night saw most of the images sold – proving that photography was a wonderful medium for self esteem. More exhibitions led to participation in Community projects with Rooming House folk and marginal youth from various local municipalities, including an exhibition at the Melbourne Immigration Museum exhibiting photography by residents of the Brunswick Commission flats. Continued success in facilitating photography has continued ...

One doesn't need to be a photographer to facilitate photography...

In celebration of photography as such a wonderful medium for self esteem ... an Equation ...

$$\frac{\text{Virtues of photography}}{\text{Diversity of skill}} \times \frac{\text{Subject}}{\text{Chance}} = \text{Self Esteem}$$

### Uses of photography ...

- Identity in the class room – images of the students enlarged – (preferably bigger than 6x4' ) assist students in having a sense of belonging. Naming them helps even more. Don't be afraid to change the tone to sepia or black / white for effect. Have a portrait competition to get some interesting poses!
- Teach theory and background of photography and then challenge students to break the rules. Visual Diaries can encourage progress of visual appreciation can be made compulsory for assessment or optional depending on class.
- Language can be a 'lure' for some students, eg : 'drive-by shooting' .. **Blow it up!** – will catch the attention of wayward youth – but move fast!
- Take students to galleries and professional exhibitions – raise the bar for genuine inspiration.
- Encourage students to take photographic essays about their excursion – print them out and have students display them in a group and watch the space become an area of visual impact!
- Select the 'hot shots' and print them professionally as a montage on a large piece of photographic paper and mount on board.
- Great images can be selected to make cards, bookmarks, used for advertising. calenders, small 'zines', or an exhibition.