

NUEVA LUZ

photographic journal



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Ana de Orbegoso, winner of En Foco's 2002 New Works Photography Award, and a new participant in our Print Collectors Program. *Vanessa*, 2002. Duraflex print, 40x27.5" (published in Volume 9#2)

Council on the Arts.

Photographers of color would dictate the terms of their own artistic expression. Associate editor Betty Wilde-Biasiny wrote in the commemorative issue of *Nueva Luz* (Volume 7#2), "En Foco was among those ripples of energy, which, beginning in 1973, made waves in the exclusionary, hierarchical modernist notion that art was a function of progress from one theoretical movement to the next. Through artist-initiated projects and alternative space begun in the seventies, individual artists and collectives garnered a substantial role in the development of a more personal, psychologically charged aesthetic, parallel to the rise of the museum as a more public, less exclusive institution."

In the 1988 exhibition *Latina*, photographers Sandra Eleta of Panama, Graciela Iturbide of Mexico, Marucha of Cuba and Frieda Medín of Puerto Rico explored images important to Latinos. In their portraits, the photographers chose to capture images of how they saw themselves and the world around them. The photographs are a master stroke in identity, where photographers captured slices of real life. Showing passion in a moment, facial expression and the right lighting, they reveal a humanity that goes beyond and goes deeper than their ethnicities.

Photographers, through En Foco's exhibitions and *Nueva Luz*, began to dictate what their art would be. They would define themselves as to what kind of artists they were and what direction their own art would go.

En Foco was out to break all of the molds and confound all of the so-called mainstream expectations of photographers of color.

For example, during the 1992 celebration of Christopher Columbus's quincentenary, En Foco produced *Oceans Apart*, an installation of Ingrid Pollard's work at Art in General. Her photo-text pieces illustrated historical life in her native Guyana confounding the notion that everyone celebrated Columbus's encounter with the "new" world. The following year, En Foco started *Intercambio*, a yearly photo seminar on the island of Puerto Rico that lasted 6 years and brought together a panorama of cultures, creating another forum for photographers of color.

An idea brought up by Frank Gimpaya soon became a reality. "We established *Nueva Luz* as a platform for photographers," said Biasiny-Rivera. "There's nothing else like this out there. It has been a magnet for the best of individual visions out there."

One of En Foco's great achievements has been the creation of *Nueva Luz*, a photographic magazine that publishes photographs in a portfolio form showing the artist's development, growth and maturity.