

Viborg, April, 2007

A Description of The Danish School of Photographers, Viborg

The Danish school of Photographers where the professional photographers in Denmark are trained and educated is placed in Viborg. The school is one of the three departments at "The Schools of Media" ("Medieskolerne"). In the other departments we educate professional camera men, editors and lightning staff as well as website producers.

Our goal is to be one of the most modern schools in the world. Since 1994 we have been working with digital equipment and since 2001 all our prints have been made from Adobe Photoshop and the newest Epson printers.

We have 8 digital studios, all equipped with Sinar P2, SinarCam, Broncolor and Macintosh computers. Furthermore we work with Sinar P3 field cameras and Canon 5D.

In that way the students have the ultimate opportunity to be trained in lightning and in imaging as well as in ordinary photographic work. They'll learn to handle all professional formats and must be able to work with advertising and architectural photography, still life and social photography as well as with documentary photography. Furthermore they have the option to specialize in fashion or still life or industrial photography or personal work etc..

But still the picture is essential! The students must know their photographic techniques so well that they never will be limited in their search for the perfect picture.

Vocational education and training in Denmark is largely structured as a so-called "dual system" (the apprenticeship-model), where the trainees spend their time partly in vocational schools, partly in companies. They must have a contract with a professional photographer to be accepted as a student.

The school-periods come in blocks at strategic intervals and the structure goes like this:

The main course - 45 weeks

1. period: 20 weeks - then one year work period
2. period: 10 weeks - then one year work period
3. period: 10 weeks - then one year work period
4. period: 5 weeks - the final exam

In that way the photographic education takes a little more than 4 years, and 60 weeks of that time are spent at the school. The rest of the

time the students are working in the studios, getting valuable professional skills and routines.

When the students graduate they are able to work as photographers right away. They get a job (in Denmark or abroad) or they begin to work on their own as independent photographers.

The students can choose to make a contract with a Danish employer or with a photographer from England or Australia or USA or anywhere in the world. They can work anywhere and they fully live up to the professional standards you would expect from a professional photographer today.

And by the way: English students can attend our school as well and it's free to go there. They just need to have a contract and be able to understand Danish. Later we might run a course in English, but we haven't planned for that yet.

If you need any further information don't hesitate to write or call or e-mail me. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Yours

Gunner Byskov
Fotografskolen
Skaldejvej 2
DK-8800 Viborg
Denmark

Phone: +45 86 67 50 55

Fax: +45 86 67 27 08

e-mail: byskov@medieskolerne.dk