

SEVEN CHIMNEYS FARM presents:

Photographic Workshop in the Mississippi Delta with:

Magdalena Solé

Clarksdale, MS
October 17-24



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: this 7-day workshop is about using the camera in a spontaneous way and learning how to get close to your subjects. It is a workshop that will emphasize the development of a unique, personal way of seeing and the development of an intuitive way of editing your photographs. We will also discuss with participants over the week how to take their work to the next level. It's a workshop open to amateurs and professionals alike.

THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA – PEOPLE, WIDE LAND, BLUES, RICH COLORS

text by RICK BRAGG

Even now, as you stand at the edge of one of those vast, brown fields, you feel like you could walk and walk, walk into your own old age, and meet your Maker out there, somewhere, kicking up dust.

Some people who come here even say they have tumbled back in time, but I do not think that is true. They have merely slipped sideways into a place they do not recognize, and may never understand.

Some places look made-up, look imagined. The art deco landscape of South Beach looks like it was dreamed up by the writers of a comic book; the skyline of Atlanta seems stenciled by bankers. Las Vegas was set ablaze by electricians; Richmond is ridden by dead soldiers on marble horses.

This place is not like that.

The Delta, while I am sure there are dreams here that have yet to die hard, was made, constructed, not imagined. It was hacked out of a vast, dark, primeval forest, and transformed by pain and blood and muscle, in an age of human bondage. Men felled the trees and burned the stumps and turned this wide, flat place into a land

scape of forever fields, of cotton rows that stretched farther than a strong man could pick in a day.

It is not, despite appearances, the end of nowhere. The empty fields are its destination. The weeds let you know where one crop ends and another begins. While other manmade places were covered in people and concrete, here it was the dirt that mattered, and there was just so much of it, between porch lights, and schools, and hospitals. There still is. In the open land between the towns and the wide places in the road, dark drops like a lid on a box, and that very isolation has shaped life here, held it, and marked it deeply and sometimes horribly.

Its loneliness would be a stage for some of the most chilling moments in the struggle for civil rights. Its rivers would give up their dead; its nowhere roads hold secrets still. It would be called the most southern place on earth, and I do not believe that meant teacakes and cotillions.

Here, the poverty hits you between the eyes like a hurled chunk of loose asphalt. It is one of the poorest places in the United States, where deep pockets of wealth are surrounded by third-world houses, tilting mobile homes, and one of the saddest infant mortality rates in the industrialized world.

Wall Street Journal Quote: February 11, 2012

“Ms. Solé’s lushly colorful and formally striking images are restless. The people of Clarksdale are lively and in motion, contrasting sharply with their crumbling surroundings. The colors Ms. Solé finds everywhere in Clarksdale—the bright green walls of the Wangz and Thangz restaurant, the deep blue backgrounds of Messenger’s Pool Hall, the red spotlight on the stage at Red’s Lounge—are visual metaphors for the culture and history that remain vivid even beneath the cracking surface. Like Clarksdale’s soundtrack, they electrify. “

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

The workshop will last for six whole days, and cost \$1800 US. The first workshop will start Wednesday evening, October 17 at 6pm and finish in the evening of Wednesday, October 24th. Our base will be at the beautiful SEVEN CHIMNEYS FARM near Clarksdale. We will kick-off the workshop with a welcome dinner on October 17th.

Accommodations are available in individual cabins at Seven Chimneys Farm, and also in nearby Clarksdale at the Shack Up Inn, the Clark House, and for those on a very tight budget there is the Uptown Motor Inn. We will send out a list of all accommodations with special workshop rates.

Accommodations, travel-tickets, car-rental, and meals are not included. People who sign up and pay the full workshop fee before August 15 receive a \$300 discount. We also encourage people to rent cars in groups. Before the beginning of the workshop we will give out a list of all the participants so you can get in touch with each other.

We would very much like you to join us for dinner every evening, and to be able to do so in a restaurant, we will order a set menu for every night. Individuals will be responsible for the cost of their meals.

PAYMENTS:

Please send the attached form with a deposit payment in the amount of \$500. The remaining fee is due September 8th. You will get a reminder and more information ahead of the final payment. After September 8th the contract is binding, and no refunds will be issued.

Please contact us with any questions:
Shonda Warner, Producer – shonda@chesscapitalpartners.com
Magdalena Solé, Photographer – msol@me.com

Please note that there are 2 tuition-scholarships available for people who currently reside in the Mississippi Delta. Please send your application to the above address with resume, ten photographs, and reasons for taking the workshop.

The Photographer – www.solepictures.com

MAGDALENA SOLÉ is best known for her vibrant and complex color work. Visual language has been her life’s work. In 2002 she graduated with a Masters of Fine Art from Columbia University. Her last film, before devoting herself exclusively to photography, was “Man On Wire”, on which she was the Unit Production Manager, won an Oscar in 2009. She has taught extensively in Europe and the US.

Her projects span the globe. Her current work includes – Kamagasaki: a photo documentary on the shunned elderly day laborers of Japan. – Cuba: communities on the brink of change, where the past is still visible, but the future not yet in focus. – Japan, “After the Water Receded”, an exploration of the aftermath of the great 2011 Tohoku disaster, which was on show at the Sidney Mishkin Gallery in April 2012 in New York City. Most recently her photographs of the Mississippi Delta have been selected as a PDN Photo Annual 2011 Finalist. Her book “New Delta Rising”, published by the University Press of Mississippi, has just been released. It has won the Silver Award in 2011 at PX3 Prix de la Photographie. She is also winner of the Silver Prize at Slow Exposures in 2011. Current shows are “Voices of Japan” at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and Dante and the Delta at Doma Gallery in Charlotte, NC.

Born in Spain, raised in Switzerland, she arrived in New York City in 1984, where she lives with her family. She speaks seven languages.

FAX OR MAIL this page to:

SEVEN CHIMNEYS FARM
145 Delta Avenue, Clarksdale, MS 38614

Please sign me up for the workshop at Seven Chimney’s Farms in Clarksdale, MS with Magdalena Solé from October 17-24, 2012. Please include a check made out to Seven Chimneys Farm LLC or fill out Credit Card info:

I am including: ☐ Deposit of \$500 ☐ Full Workshop Fee of \$1800 or \$1500 (if postmarked before August 15.)

Please charge my Credit Card: ☐ Amex ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____ / ____ Security code _____

Cancellation policy is as follows: After September 8, this contract is binding, and no refunds will be issued. If you cancel before August 20th you will receive a full refund minus a \$50 administration fee. Between August 20th and September 8 you will receive a refund minus a \$250 cancellation fee.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Date of birth:

Occupation:

E-mail:

Describe yourself as a photographer:

Signature:



Accommodations at Seven Chimneys Farm

Contact: Shonda Warner – phone: 1.505.400.3397
email: shonda@chesscapitalpartners.com

Green Room	\$75 / night	(for 1 couple)
Pink Room	\$75 / night	(for 1 couple)
2 Studio Shacks	\$90 / night	(for 2 roommates)
1-BR Shack	\$120 / night	(for 2 roommates)
Airstreamer	\$50/ night	(1 person)
Upstairs Barn	\$30 / night	(for each roommate)

How to book: 1 night non-refundable deposit, no cancellations 2 weeks or less before reservation date.

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