Inside the Hidden City

Photographs from Ciudad Oculta

From the series Seeing Human Rights by the University of Chicago Human Rights Program

Photographs by students of Fundación ph15—Buenos Aires, Argentina

Thursday, April 7 – Sunday, May 8, 2011
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel
5850 S. Woodlawn Ave
Free and open to the public
8 am to 5:30 pm daily

This is an exhibit of the University of Chicago Human Rights Program’s Seeing Human Rights series, a project designed to increase awareness and recognition of photography and video as important tools of human rights teaching and advocacy. Curated by former Human Rights Intern Jasmine Heiss (AB ’10), this exhibit is of work by the students of Fundación ph15. Fundación ph15 is a participatory project that teaches photography to young people living in the Ciudad Oculta, one of the largest “villas miserias” on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina. This series was designed to help U of C students integrate art with their studies and to give critical consideration to contemporary human rights issues, such as those of depiction, voice, marginality, empowerment, and representation. The next portion of the series will be a student contest in Autumn 2011 for the best photographs and short films by U of C students depicting some aspect of human rights (details at: humanrights.uchicago.edu).

Fundación ph15 describes their work as aiming “to spread photographic creativity. Through learning how to look at and depict the different realities of their lives, both as individuals and in a group, the students learn to explore everything that surrounds them and to express themselves through their personal views, and with a new perspective. Without ever leaving aside the search for artistic quality, ph15 generates a space where adolescents can develop their identities, and subsequently, improve their social and cultural conditions. Ph15 uses the creative power of photography to open an alternative route for students that transmits values and cultural understanding that belong to them and are not imposed by others.” (http://www.ph15.org.ar/)

Sponsored by The University of Chicago Human Rights Program, Arts Council, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel and the Center for Latin American Studies

Photos by (top to bottom): Nahuel Lopez, Romina Amarilla, Brian Stuckel