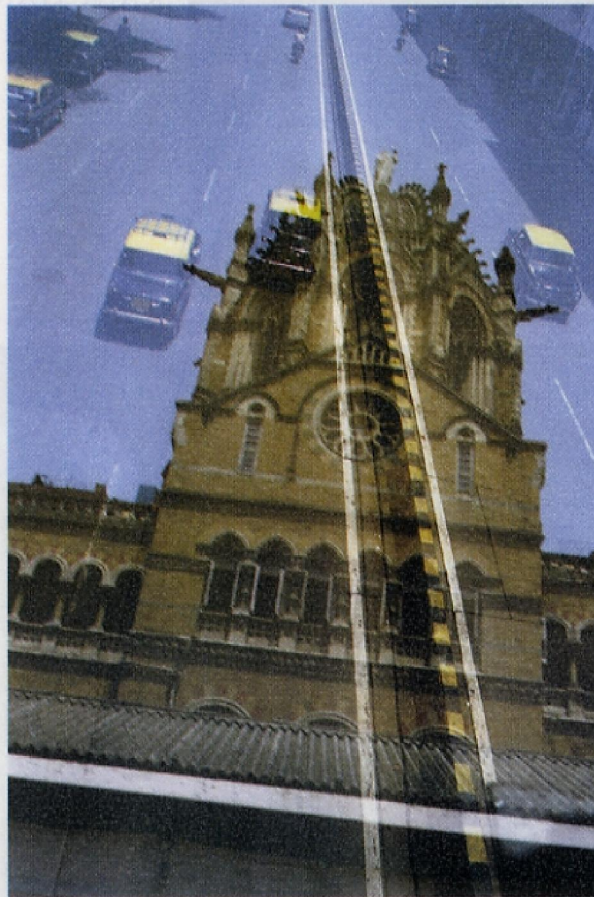
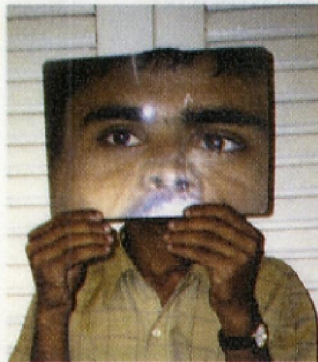
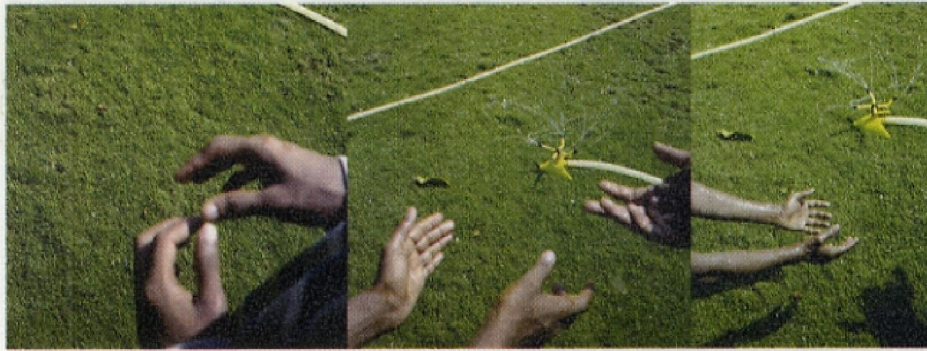


photofeature



TOP: Sujit Chaurasiya says he followed the sound of his friends's claps and the direction of the water for these shots

ABOVE: Kanchan Pamnani posed her subject behind the magnifying lens used by people with low vision for this larger than life effect

RIGHT: Raju Singh wanted a different shot of the much-photographed Victoria Terminus and created this image with multiple exposures

BELOW: Mahesh Umrrania cannot remember faces but remembers mirrors. Seen here is a self-portrait

I remember everything. I feel I can still see. With the camera I take pictures of the things that mean the most to me: music and nature

MAHESH UMRRANIA



blindartonline

The Blind with Camera exhibition travels to Delhi on October 17. See more photographs from The Blind with Camera project and read about other participating photographers at

» www.blindwithcamera.org/

Evgan Bavcar: See the works by the French photographer who inspired the Blind with Camera project. Read about what drove Bavcar at

» <http://zonezero.com/EXPOSICIONES/fotografos/bavcar/>

Insights: A groundbreaking exhibition in mixed media, painting, photography and sculpture by blind and visually-impaired artists curated by Lighthouse, a San Francisco-based organisation
 » www.lighthouse-sf.org/activities/insights/index.php

left. Everything appears very foggy to him. If he wants to examine something, he brings it very close to his eyes.

Once, he was taking a picture of a man sitting by the base of a pillar. As he was looking through the viewfinder, I kept asking him what he could see. The subject was hazy right up to the point he took the picture. When we developed the photo, he held the print close to his eyes. Then he could see the man as well as anyone. He had reduced a foggy three-dimensional world to a perfectly clear two-dimensional one.

THE DIVERSE and varied backgrounds of the participants are fascinating. Kanchan Pamnani is a busy lawyer who practices at the Bombay High Court. She has had a wide exposure to the world thanks to her work, much more than my other students.

By taking pictures, Raju had reduced a foggy three-dimensional world to a perfectly clear two-dimensional one

She is amazingly attuned to people's feelings. When I am speaking to her, she can often tell if I am in a bad mood. I asked her how she knew and she said that my voice changed fractionally when I was in a bad mood. She can tell whether I am standing or sitting just by listening to me.

Nikhil is in Class 7. When we first spent some time together I asked him what he could see. Not much, he said. I asked him what he could see of me. He said he could make out a blurred outline. Even though it was a sunny day, he couldn't tell I was wearing glasses.

We were in his school, in a long, dim corridor. We took pictures of the corridor; when he looked at the developed images, Sunil said the image had no details. Just like he could not see the details of the corridor when he was actually taking pictures. Before we took the pictures, I had asked him to describe the corridor to me, and he had given me a detailed description. Much better than I would have been able to, if you had asked me at the time.

These pictures serve to restate a truism. That the blind have vision — a complex, fully formed and highly evolved vision. It's just that nobody ever asks them about it.

As told to Nisha Susan