

THE AFTERMATH PROJECT

TOO YOUNG TO DIE

CARLOS ORTIZ , 2011 AFTERMATH PROJECT GRANT FINALIST

INTRODUCING "TOO YOUNG TO DIE"

A long-term project about the aftermath of conflicts being waged nightly on the streets of Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Boston. Ortiz seeks to educate the public about the effects of youth violence on young victims, their families and society as a whole.

BYSTANDER

Eternity Gaddy, a 13-year-old bystander struck by a stray bullet during a suspected gang shooting, she was pronounced dead at 9:22 a.m. Monday, September 3, 2008. Eternity was shot in the head early Sunday. The young resident of Allentown, Pa., and her mother had been spending the summer in Humboldt Park, the sometimes-violent a neighborhood from which the family had moved years ago. They were hours away from leaving when Eternity-standing with her mother, cousin and others outside her aunt's apartment in the 3400 block of Potomac Avenue was hit with a bullet fired by men emerging from a nearby alley. Before she was born, Eternity's family hoped a move to Pennsylvania would be an escape from gang violence in Humboldt Park.



- Why do you think the photograph is titled “Bystander”? How does the title relate to the image itself?
 - Many people see themselves as bystanders—individuals who lack the power and influence to make a difference. Others are convinced that there are no limits to what people can accomplish if they join together with those who share their vision. What do you think? To what extent can people stop violence around them and regain control of their community?
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WESTSIDE

Families pray together on the West Side of Chicago to remember a young girl who was raped and killed. Parents who have lost children to violence often come together here to support other families who have experienced the same tragedy.



- What emotions do you think the photographer was trying to capture?
 - What did the photographer want to communicate about the way this community is responding in the aftermath of violence?
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D'MAN

Darius Mitchell, a 14-year-old boy from Chicago, was shot and killed at a house party after a fight in 2007. Darius Mitchell's friends show off their T-shirts, which refer to him by his nickname, D'Man.



- What do you see in this image? How do the subjects, friends of a shooting victim, present themselves to the photographer?
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MURALS

Murals memorializing fallen youth in North Philadelphia are reminiscent of the murals for activists in Palestine's Gaza Strip. In Philadelphia, more than 80% of murders are shooting deaths, versus 70% nationally.



- One way in which artists respond to violence is to create murals in honor of victims. What role does public art play in the aftermath of violence in a community? What does this mural express to you?
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JUMP

Kids jump off of a trampoline during a block party in Chicago, Illinois, in 2008.

- Why do you think the photographer included this image in the series? What message was intended?



SCARFACE

A snapshot shows a 21-year-old man who was killed at a birthday party on Chicago's West Side. In the photo, the young man stands next to a painting from the movie Scarface.

- What could be the intent of the photographer in juxtaposing these images within the photograph?



GUARDIAN

Albert Vaughn was the neighborhood guardian, an older teenager who would play ball with the younger kids and try to keep them safe from trouble, friends said. "If he was guilty of anything, he was guilty of always protecting these kids," said Trualanda Fields, a neighborhood mother who was among the 50 people who gathered on South Throop Street in Chicago to pay tribute to the 18-year-old they called Lil' Albert. They wept, sang, and chanted "Say no more," a phrase Vaughn often used in response to someone's request for help.



- Describe what you see happening in this image. What purpose might gatherings such as this one serve?

Thirty-two pine replicas of caskets, each topped with a black cross and flowers, sit in the playground of Sabina Church in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. The caskets, made by teenagers, represent the 32 Chicago Public Schools students who died from violence in 2008.



- These caskets are not part of a funeral. Instead, they were displayed to send a message. What message do you think the wooden caskets were meant to send?
- What choices did the photographer make in shooting this image? How do those choices impact what you see as well as the message he hopes to send?
- What projects and people make life better in your community? In the nation? Around the world? How have you learned about these people and projects? What role does the press play in telling these stories? How else do we learn about them? How important is it that we know about the good things happening in our communities as well as the bad?

AFTER CLASS

A woman cleans the blood of Jalil Speaks. The 16 year-old teenager was killed in front of Strawberry Mansion High School in North Philadelphia in 2004. Jalil Speaks was shot outside the school shortly after classes let out.



- Without the title, caption, or any knowledge of the "Too Young to Die" project, this photograph could be seen as an image of something quite ordinary. An image tells only a piece of a story. What story is being told here?
- What can you imagine occurring outside of the frame of this image? What are we not seeing?

FAKHUR UDDIN

Fakhur Uddin was found dead on August 20, 2008 at 11:30 am. Uddin was bound with duct tape and shot in the head in the back room of the East Germantown gift and sundry store he was minding for his ailing father. The murder occurred almost exactly seven years to the day Mr. Uddin came to America from Bangladesh. Mr. Uddin's mother sits in front of the store crying over the death of her son as Philadelphia police work the crime scene.



- What is happening in this photograph? What do you imagine happened before the photographer captured this image? What will happen afterward? How do people carry on with their lives after experiencing violence or tragedy?

See the full project: <http://dev.unchartedigital.com/project/too-young-die>