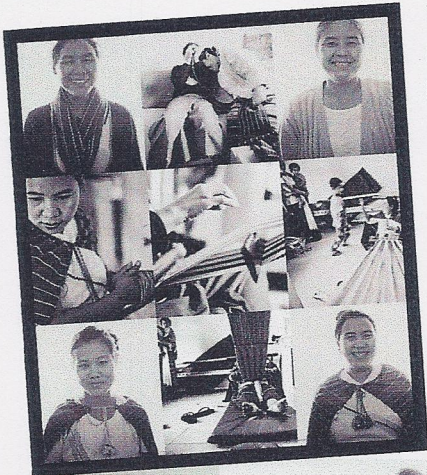


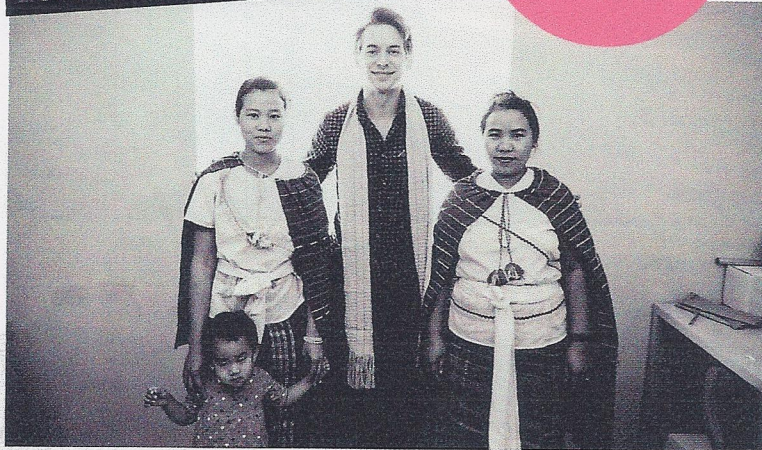
# 4th Annual

# COVER CONTEST

THIS YEAR WE HAD A PLETHORA OF COVER ART SUBMISSIONS, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME AN ART OPENING WAS HELD AT 18HANDS GALLERY WHERE READERS WERE INVITED TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE PIECE. VOTERS STARTED SHOWING UP AS EARLY AS LUNCHTIME TO VOTE BUT BY OFFICIAL OPENING TIME 18HANDS WAS IN FULL SWING, FEATURING COLD BEER, THANKS TO SILVER EAGLE, AND FREEBIRDS FA

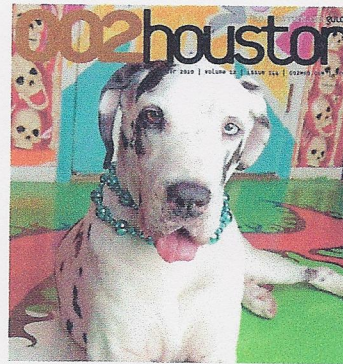


**THE WINNER**  
*The Community Cloth*  
 by Joseph West



*The Community Cloth* is a microenterprise empowering refugee women in Houston. It targets economic, educational and social goals through the provision of seed grants, training and peer support by expanding market opportunities for refugee women artisans. As a collaborative of several refugee-led and refugee-serving organizations, and their supporters, *The Community Cloth* supports women who want to create and sell handmade, indigenous arts and crafts such as woven bags, scarves and flatware, knitted scarves, flower accessories and baby items and more. Through producing and selling their wares, the women have an opportunity to express their culture and heritage, learn new skills that will assist them in transitioning to life in the US and obtain much-needed supplemental income. All profits from sales go directly to the artisans. [www.thecommunitycloth.org](http://www.thecommunitycloth.org)

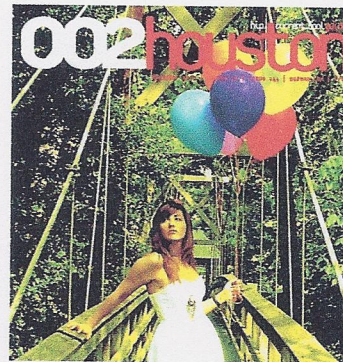
Joseph West has been attempting to capture beautiful things since the age of 15 with his first camera — a Polaroid 600. A childhood spent on a farm played a key role in West's appreciation for nature, which is evident in his photographs that serve as visual odes to the sun. His approach is unusual — he uses the sun as a type of capture as opposed to turning away from and using it merely as a light source. West's ambient light use and experimental hobbies in photography complement his retro-active exploration of film in the age of a digital world. His images have been described as "romantic" pictorials of people and places but his mark on photography can be found in his portraiture, freezing an emotional state into one exquisite image. He is a current student at Glassell School of Art, a member of Houston Center for Photography and a proud supporter of local arts. Joseph is available for special events such as weddings upon request. [www.josephwashere.com](http://www.josephwashere.com) | [www.josephwashere.com/blog](http://www.josephwashere.com/blog)



## 2ND PLACE

*Olive the Great Dane*  
 by Judy Babinski

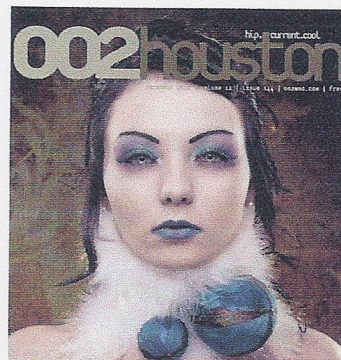
Inspiration — Let's focus in 2011 on what brings joy into our lives: pets, home family. Olive, the Great Dane, is a red dog. She now has a loving owner who lets her wear bling and live in a very colorful house. Thanks to Liz Simmons for well-decorated dog and house.



## 3RD PLACE

*Left* by Tiffany Cintron

The transition from one year to the next is vividly expressed in this metaphorical landscape bounded by what is left behind and what lies ahead. The youthful young lady dressed in virgin white and ready for a clean start is surrounded by large, naturally aged trees through the passing centuries. She stops to reflect at the right side of a very long and unsteady wooden suspension bridge. Her thoughts and her feet are ahead on the right side of the bridge but she does not let go of the wonderful memories and lessons she acquired on the left side, which she now carries in her left hand, symbolized by the delicate colorful balloons.



## 4TH PLACE

*Untitled*  
 by Janean Johnson and Mark Bradley

This image was a collaborative between Janean Johnson, M Bradley Photography and model Sabrina Sin. M Bradley is a graphic artist of the image and I am a designer of the white and blue color piece. I create unique women's clothing and accessories. This piece was inspired by a chilly holiday ornament perspective and executed in a fantasy wonderland style. Janean Johnson — JaJo Couture [www.JaJoCouture.com](http://www.JaJoCouture.com) | Mark Bradley — M Bradley Photography