KING OF THE CASTLE
JAY MAISEL WEIGHS IN
ON HOW TO MAKE A
PHOTOGRAPHIC LIFE

WORKING THE CROWD
DO's AND DON'TS FOR
PRESENTING AT A
PORTFOLIO WALK

NIKON PROS OFFER
PRACTICAL ADVICE
FROM THE FIELD
WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW AFTER SCHOOL

WINNERS OF THE
12TH ANNUAL PDNEDU
STUDENT PHOTO CONTEST

THE FAMILY ISSUE
When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silent.

—Ansel Adams
Some of PDNedu’s favorite photo-related media

In her first book, The Notion of Family, photographer and Guggenheim Fellow LaToya Ruby Frazier presents an intimate look at her hometown of Braddock, Pennsylvania, which has experienced economic decline since the steel mills closed in the ’70s and ’80s. Much of Frazier’s work is dedicated to portraits of her mother and her grandma Ruby and to self-portraits.

In an accompanying interview with photographer Dawoud Bey, Frazier says, “I choose to make work that expresses how I feel, about the environment and class that surrounds me. These expressions can take the shape of portraits, still lifes, landscapes or abstractions, but, at the end of the day, I am devoted to making pictures about the world in which I come from and live.”

Frazier’s fluency across genres is highlighted in the book’s sequencing. In one particular spread, we see a woman in a hospital gown with mysterious wires running from her scalp to some unknown machine placed next to an urban landscape of buildings in ruin and a tangle of cables spilling from a mass of concrete, echoing the wires on the adjacent page. From cover to cover, Frazier paints a raw and cohesive picture of the people and places she knows best, while contributed writings leave readers with a deeper understanding of this talented young artist.

— Jeanine Moutenot

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