



THE AMERICAN SOUTH, THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA AND BEYOND:  
A DOCUMENTARY MASTERCLASS WITH MAGDALENA SOLE

The American South workshop is a photographic exploration of communities in the Deep South. Traditionally this workshop has focused on the Mississippi Delta. Now we will expand the experience of the South to include Natchez and New Orleans during the height of the cotton harvest season.

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**TRIP DURATION:**

9 days, 8 nights

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** [Seven Chimneys Farm](#) and [The Shack Up Inn](#) in Clarksdale, [The Alluvian](#) in Greenwood, [Natchez Grand Hotel](#) in Natchez and [Place D'Armes Hotel](#) in New Orleans

**DATES:**

Sept 6th - 14th, 2016

**PRICE:** \$2,695 USD for tuition only.

Accommodations, travel-tickets, car-rental and meals are not included. We encourage people to rent cars in groups. Before the beginning of the workshop we will give out a list of all the participants so you can get in touch with each other



Our journey will begin in the Delta with a stay in Clarksdale, MS. The Delta lies in the rich lands between the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers, Memphis to the North and Vicksburg to the South. It should not be confused with the Mississippi River Delta, which is South of New Orleans. The Delta is an extraordinary corner of the Deep South. Its unique landscapes conjure up visions of sharecroppers, plantations and the sound of the Blues. We will photograph the last remaining Juke Joints, visit places where decades ago, blues luminaries like Charley Patton, Robert Johnson and Sonny Boy Williamson traveled across the South, guitar or harmonica in hand. A special focus will be on photographing the people. One-on one as well as group reviews of your work will be held. After 3 nights in Clarksdale we will move to Greenwood, MS, the town where the movie "The Help" was filmed. We will spend 2 nights there and explore Baptist Town (established in 1800 and one of the oldest African American neighborhoods) and the surrounding countryside, cotton plantations, juke joints and more. Continuing South to the historical river town of Natchez, we will not only experience the scope and depth of the vast landscapes of the American South but as a contrast to the Mississippi Delta we will see the antebellum homes built by extreme wealth. Natchez once boasted over 500 millionaires, more than any other city in the United States, except New York. We will end the journey in the legendary port town of New Orleans. Nicknamed the "Big Easy," it is known for its round-the-clock nightlife, vibrant live-music scene and spicy, singular cuisine reflecting its history as a melting pot of French, African and American cultures.

Hosted by the renowned photographer Magdalena Solé, who has published a photographic book "New Delta Rising" (University Press of Mississippi) on the beautiful Delta region, this documentary workshop allows advanced and professional photographers alike to capture the communities in the Deep South, and gain a greater understanding of its people.

"I first visited the Delta in 2009 and, in a sense, I've never left," says Magdalena Solé. Such is the magical spell cast by this slender stretch of fertile land in northwestern Mississippi and the people who live in it. It is a place where lives are shaped by a close attachment to the land, by the unhurried rhythms of the season, and by shared memories of a tortured past. There is something about the Delta's people that goes to the heart of what it means to be human. Perhaps nowhere else in America do such extremes in ways of life and emotional history exist so intimately."

#### ADMISSION:

To apply for admission to this workshop, please submit a selection of 10 photographs from a single series in low resolution to [msole@mac.com](mailto:msole@mac.com), please also CC [info@photoxpeditions.com](mailto:info@photoxpeditions.com).

The class is limited to eight participants. Former advanced students are not required to send portfolios for review.

#### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Designed for professional and advanced photographers alike, this workshop will travel between four major Mississippi

cities over the course of one week. For 2016, it will run from 6 to 14 September.

The workshop will begin on September 6 with a review of each photographer's work. All attendees should bring 15 prints of a single series to the first class for peer review (please bring prints only, not digital photographs). After the first three nights in Clarksdale, the workshop will move to Greenwood (9 to 10 September), then Natchez (11 September), and finally to New Orleans (12 to 14 September).

#### Learning the theory

While in Clarksdale, Magdalena Solé will cover several topics relating to the art of photography. These topics will include the 'grammar' of photography; use of color; how to photograph in cultures other than one's own; how to edit photographs so that they reveal a story; and how to get close to the people you are photographing.

This workshop will emphasize the development of a unique, personal visual language, and also help workshop attendees find an intuitive way of editing their photographs. Individual review sessions will be held on non-travel days.

Magdalena will also speak with each participant about how to take their work to the next level.

#### Putting it into practice

Every day of the workshop will be full of important activities. Alongside photography related lectures, students will be allowed a significant amount of time to photograph the South's unique

landscapes and people.

Magdalena will give each participant an individual assignment; and or a specific technique to master during the workshop. Emphasis is placed on identifying areas for each individual that requires improvement.

### **Sharing your work**

The last evening of the workshop we will host a slideshow of the weeks work, showing selected photography by each student. We will invite local guests, which will also be a chance to meet other photographers and artists from the area.

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The fee for the workshop is a tuition only fee, however, as we will be moving and making our way south to New Orleans over the course of 9 days, we have blocked a series of rooms for all our participants in the hotels where Magdalena will be staying. Upon your registration to the workshop, we will be sending the list of hotels and contact information, along with the group codes required to get our discounted group rates. Alternatively, you can make your own arrangements at alternate hotels if you would prefer to do so.

The accommodations are as follows:

- Clarksdale (6 to September 8): Seven Chimneys Farm and the Shack-up Inn
- Greenwood (9 to 10 September): The Alluvian
- Natchez (11 September): Natchez Grand Hotel
- New Orleans (12 to 14 September): Place D'Armes Hotel

Please note: Internet access is limited at Seven Chimneys Farm, and even though spotty throughout the region, it will be available at the other hotels.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

This workshop is for advanced and professional photographers only.

All participants on the workshop must bring along their own equipment, which should include a digital camera, a laptop computer, a backup drive, a memory stick, and sufficient memory cards and batteries to shoot for an entire day.

Participants must be proficient in Lightroom and have the program installed on their computer. They must also be self-sufficient in downloading images and managing their files. We only work in RAW, so participants should know how to size an image as well as how to dodge and burn. This workshop is limited to 10 (Ten) attendees to allow for the maximum individual attention.

Please note: documentary photography requires long days, lots of walking, and the carrying of your own equipment. There are few amenities along the way. You are required to have a car, but you are encouraged to car pool or rent a car with other participants if possible.

We encourage participants to read "New Delta Rising" before the workshop (it is available on Amazon and at all good bookstores). It will give participants a sense of the places they will be photographing.

### **ABOUT MAGDALENA SOLE**



Magdalena Magdalena Sole is a social documentary photographer. She is best known for her vibrant and complex color work. Visual language has been her life's work. In 1989 she founded TransImage, a graphic design studio, in New York City. In 2002 she graduated with a Masters of Fine Art in Film from Columbia University. Her last film, "Man On Wire", on which

she was the Unit Production Manager, won an Oscar in 2009. She has taught in Europe and the US.

Her projects span the globe. Her current work includes: Kamagasaki — a photo documentary on the shunned elderly day laborers of Japan. Japan — "After the Water Receded", an exploration of the aftermath of the great 2011 Tohoku disaster, which was shown at the Sidney Mishkin Gallery in April 2012 in New York City. Most recently her photographs of the Mississippi Delta have been selected as a PDN Photo Annual 2011 Finalist. Her book "New Delta Rising", published by the University Press of Mississippi, was released in February 2012. It has won the Silver Award in 2011 at PX3 Prix de la Photographie, France. She is also winner of the Silver Prize 2011 at Slow Exposures, Concord, GA. Other shows in 2012 are Voices from Japan at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City, Dante and the Delta at Doma Gallery in Charlotte, NC, The Delta at WilJax Gallery in Cleveland, MS, and Sous Les Étoiles in New York City. The Mississippi Delta is on view until February 22, 2013 at the Leica Gallery in New York.

Born in Spain, raised in Switzerland, she arrived in New York City in 1984, where she lives with her family. She speaks seven languages.

[www.solepictures.com](http://www.solepictures.com)

### **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

To reserve space in this workshop, a \$500 per person deposit is required at the time of making the reservation. Deposits are due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Final payment is due no later than 60 days prior to departure unless indicated otherwise in the description of the tour or workshop. All payments must be made by credit card or wire transfer to Photo Xpeditions, LLC, and instructions for payments will be mailed upon confirmation of participation.

Photo Xpeditions reserves the right to cancel a reservation if full payment has

mailed upon confirmation of participation.

Photo Xpeditions reserves the right to cancel a reservation if full payment has not been received by 60 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 60 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If you cancel 90 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee equal to 50% of your deposit will be made. Per person charges for cancellations that occur less than 90 days prior to departure are as follows:

60–90 days prior to departure: 100% of your deposit amount;

45–60 days prior to departure: 50% of the expedition cost;

45 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the workshop cost.

PhotoXpeditions reserves the right of canceling the workshop at any time if the minimum amount of students required for the workshop is not reached. If a workshop needs to be cancelled for this reason, a full refund will be given to all participants.

If you need more information or have questions, give us a call or drop us an email, we will respond promptly.

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