

AMERICAN
PH

Plus **EDITOR'S
CHOICE 2007**

Our
Ultimate
Buying
Guide

SPECIAL ISSUE

**PHOTOGRAPHY
ROCKS**

**A UNIQUE
PORTFOLIO
FEATURING
PHOTOS BY**

**THE
MUSICIAN
AS VISUAL
ARTIST**

**MICK
FLEETWOOD**

**PATTI
SMITH**

**LENNY
KRAVITZ**

**JOHN
MAYER**

**ANDY
SUMMERS**

**LOU
REED**

**GRAHAM
NASH**

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**PERRY
FARRELL**

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STIPE**

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ADAMS**



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MARK SELIGER

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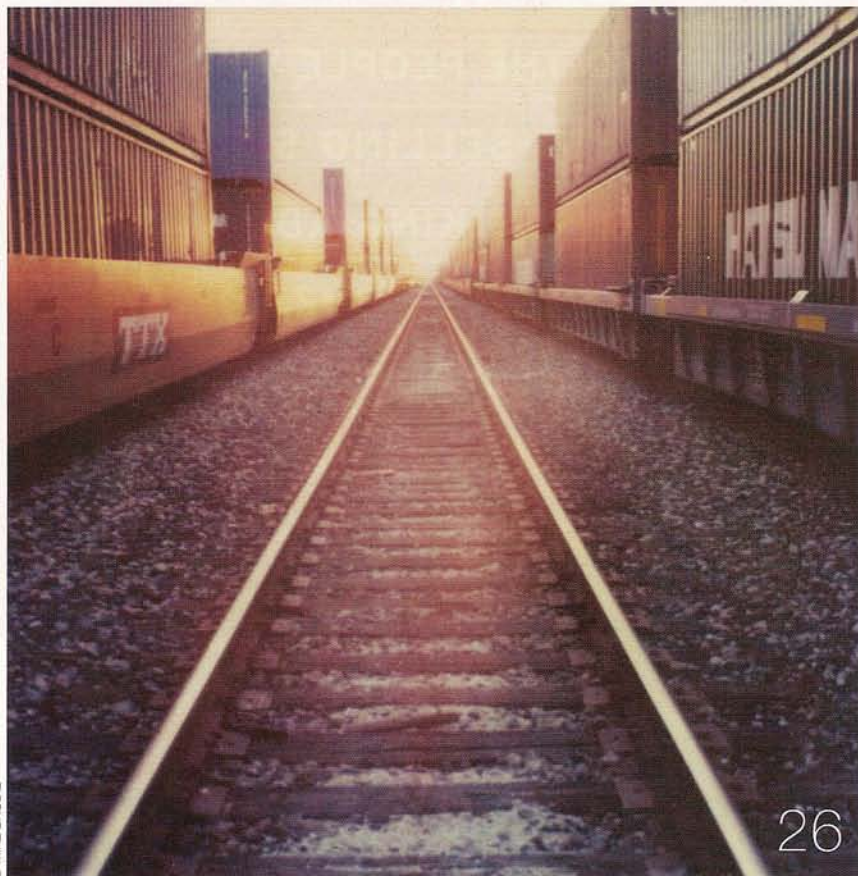
Introducing 21-year-old traveler Mike "The Polaroid Kidd" Brodie.

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Beauty in the eyes of Lou Reed.

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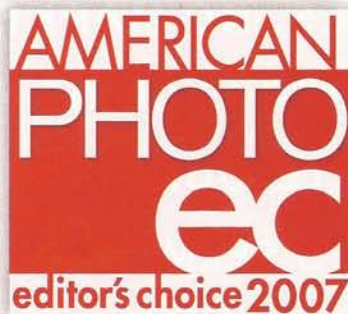
© MIKE BRODIE

Special Section

State of the Art Editor's Choice 2007

Starting on page 31.

Our annual buying guide to the best in new photography products.

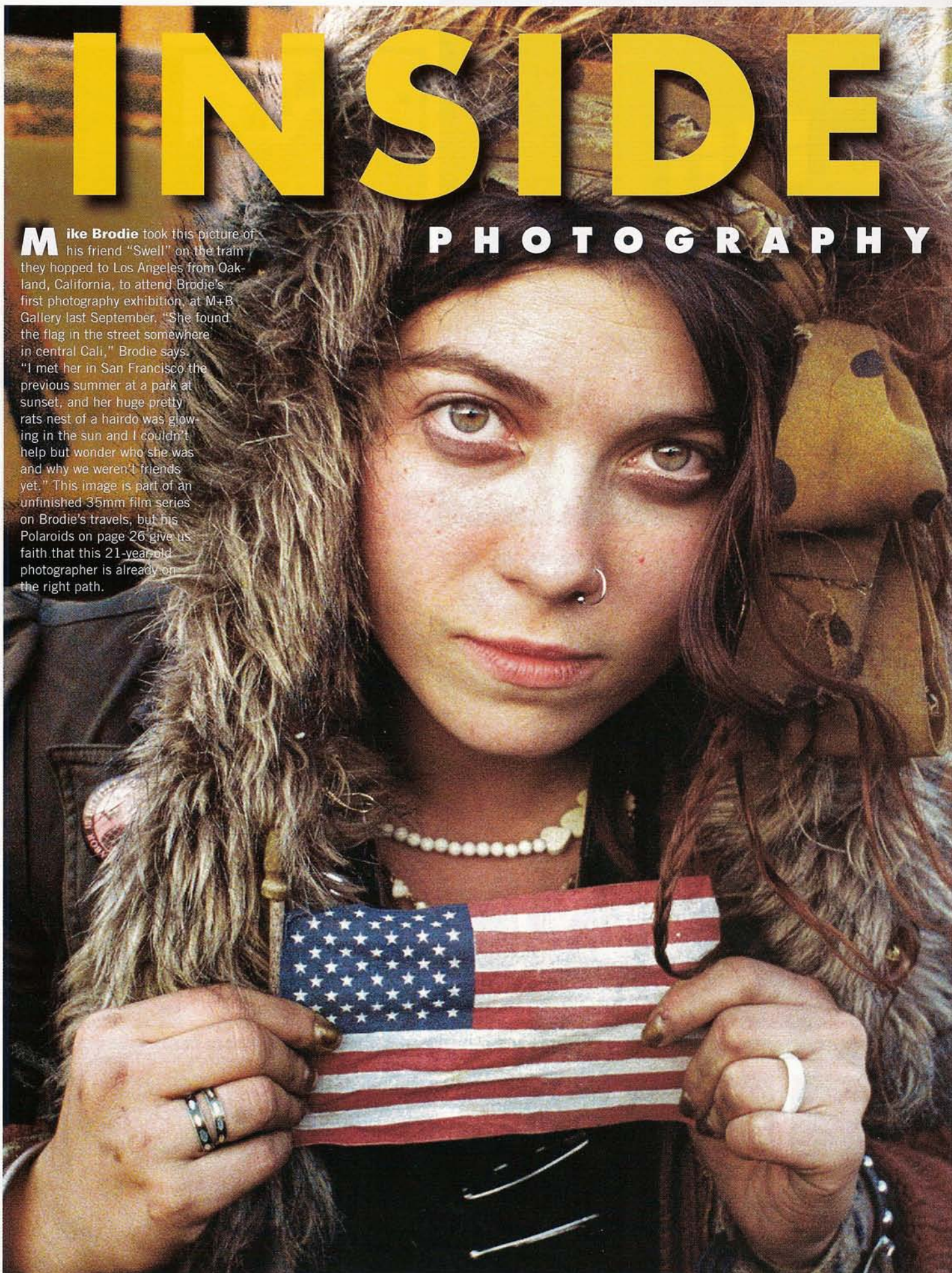


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INSIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Brodie took this picture of his friend "Swell" on the train they hopped to Los Angeles from Oakland, California, to attend Brodie's first photography exhibition, at M+B Gallery last September. "She found the flag in the street somewhere in central Cali," Brodie says. "I met her in San Francisco the previous summer at a park at sunset, and her huge pretty rats nest of a hairdo was glowing in the sun and I couldn't help but wonder who she was and why we weren't friends yet." This image is part of an unfinished 35mm film series on Brodie's travels, but his Polaroids on page 26 give us faith that this 21-year-old photographer is already on the right path.



NEW TALENT

EXCEPTION TO THE RULE 21 AND ALREADY A SUCCESS

Mike Brodie is barely old enough to drink alcohol legally, yet he's already achieved something photographers twice his age are still striving for: He makes enough from his photos to keep taking pictures.

Brodie fell in love with photography a few years ago when a friend lent him her vintage Polaroid camera. "I took a photo of the handlebars of my BMX bike, and the Polaroid that developed blew my mind!" he wrote in our e-mail interview.

Equipped with a Polaroid SX-70 Sonar OneStep from eBay and stolen packets of its hard-to-find film, Brodie began obsessively photographing the things around him and uploading scans to his burgeoning Website (Google "The Polaroid Kidd").



Mike Brodie on the road.

Q&A ▲ MIKE BRODIE

You've said you can't have a job. Why not?

I think working is great and all, ya gotta make money, but personally I don't like having time restraints on me. I say this now, but years from now I'll feel totally opposite I suppose. Haha.

In recent work you have shot people you travel with. Are you friends with the people in your photos?

Photography has made me what I am. It pulls me in all directions. It gives and takes friends, and pushes me to move miles and miles. My desire to photograph these people in the beginning is what led me to develop such great relationships with them; some being relationships that will last clear on 'til the day I die. I'm really lucky 'cause I never used to be this social.

Why are you drawn to photography?

I don't really like getting into the "why" question; there's no tellin' really why people do what they do. Photography is especially important; images are one of the leading medias that shape our lives. There's so much bullshit out there. It's nice to see/show things you've never seen before.



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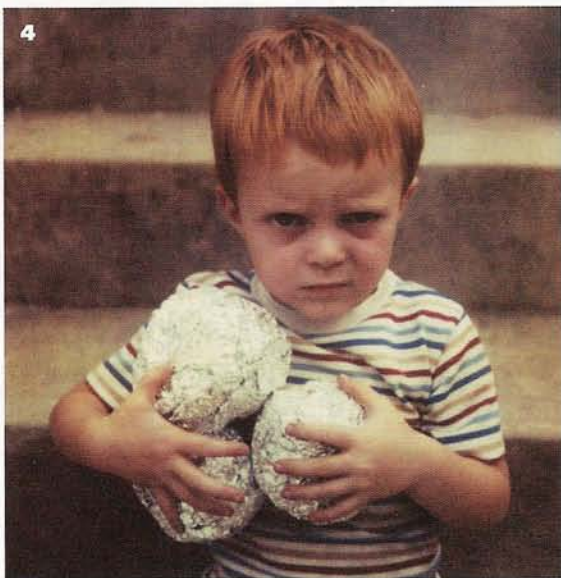


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1. "The Sunset Route," San Antonio, Texas, 2005.
2. "The Clay Pits," Pensacola, Florida, 2005.
3. "Alina" on the porch, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005.
4. "Obsidian" with treats, Denver, Colorado, 2005.
5. "Monica and Mama" (Mama is the bird), Oakland, California, 2005.
6. "Oliver" with ivy, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005.
7. "Precenia," Pensacola, Florida, 2005.



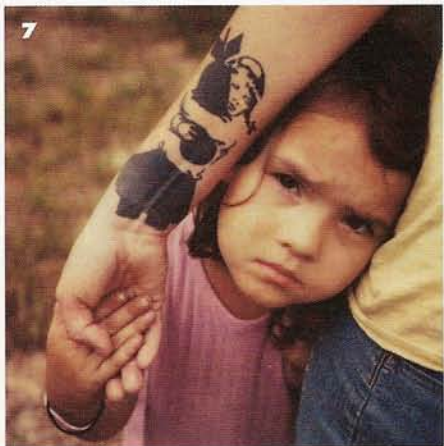
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The results have blown several well-respected minds, including magazine editors and curators at Los Angeles' M+B gallery, which added Brodie to its roster and staged his first show in 2006.

Now living with his mom and brother in Pensacola, Florida, Brodie is fleshing out a new project in 35mm film, photographing his friends and fellow travelers as they hop trains around the country (see page 13). —MIKI JOHNSON