

ASU photo exhibit meant to encourage students to travel

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The road that led to creating this exhibit took Paula Cullison a lifetime to accomplish



(Photo: Lea Franz)

I walked into the library and was immediately surrounded by a mix of views from several countries from around the world; including a castle in Ireland, ancient ruins in Italy, and a woman in Peru.

I closed the door and inspected each of the 19 works in the exhibit. With each one I passed, the more I felt the urge to travel to the places the photos depicted.

Paula Cullison's photo exhibit, "Have Passport-Will Travel," is on display at the Arizona State University Polytechnic campus library until the end of December. Cullison hopes to inspire young people throughout the Valley to travel the world through her exhibit.

Visiting 36 countries

The road that led to creating this exhibit took Cullison a lifetime to accomplish. Retired from a career as a non-profit executive, the 42-year resident of Phoenix has always been interested in other cultures. Her first international trip was a three-month study-abroad trip when she was in college. Since then, the 74-year-old has visited 36 countries.

Following her retirement, Cullison began to focus more on traveling. Cullison began writing travel stories and taking photographs. She went on some trips with her husband, others with her daughter, and some by herself. After each trip, Cullison added more photos to her collection and also wrote some travel articles about the destinations.

However, Cullison saw greater potential in her photos from international travels.

"It is really important to inspire young people to travel because we will never have peace if people don't understand each other," Cullison said.

Creating exhibit

In order to do that, Cullison contacted the library at ASU's West campus. Cullison shared some of her photos with a librarian and offered to put an exhibit together. The result was the creation of "Have Passport-Will Travel."

"My goal is to inspire students to travel and to think outside the box," Cullison said.

In the end, Cullison had 19 works comprised of photos taken in the past 11 years, the majority being single photos. But she made some collages as well.

Out of all the works in her exhibit, Cullison's favorite is a collage titled "In Search of My Roots in Sicily." The collage features Greek temples, a castle, the house where her father was born, and her three maternal cousins.

Award-winning piece

The exhibit also features an award-winning piece. "Mother & Child + Kid," which was taken outside the Inca Museum in Cuzco, Peru. The photo features a local woman wearing traditional clothing while holding her child and a baby llama. Cullison submitted a copy of the photo to be put on display at the 2016 Arizona State Fair, where it won an "Honorable Mention" award.

Cullison said she hopes that the exhibit will get students "to take themselves out of their comfort zone and to understand another culture. And to study another language because it's really important to approach people, no matter where you are, in their language"

Besides "Have Passport-Will Travel," Cullison has created two other exhibits: "Journey through the Emerald Isle," a photography exhibit of Ireland, on display at Paradise Valley Community College, and "To Cuba with Love," a photography exhibit of Cuba, on display at the Arizona State University West campus.

Cullison said she hopes that through all of her exhibits, people "relive their travels, or visit a place they haven't been."

Her exhibit is free and open to the public. The ASU Poly Library is in the basement of the Academic Center. For more information about Cullison's work, visit her website:
paulacullison.com

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/arts/2016/12/15/asu-photo-exhibit-meant-encourage-students-travel/95431426/>