

FORMER PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“I really appreciated the direct feedback from Jay and the group, I now have a much more critical eye of the entire frame. And of course the food, it was fantastic. Being immersed into Jay’s world for a week was incredible. The guest lectures were also very inspiring. The week resulted in a shift for me, both personally and professionally. It brought back my love and appreciation for all art, not just photography. I learned many new “skills” but more important was a new way of being, a new way of seeing the frame. This shift was noticed by my family and friends when I returned home. “Art is about doing” has really stuck with me, thanks so much.”

- John Hall, San Jose, Ca (November 2009)

“Jay is entirely self-actualized – what a warm, lovely human being. His critiques are based on what is in front of him, not on a set of prejudices or dogma and therefore he is able to see the gap between what is and what could be and push one across the abyss. He does it with humor but there is always a push. Great stories. Insightful stories. A singularly transformative week. Beyond educational. This was inspiring.

Oh, New York City is not a bad place to shoot either. ”

- Shane Adams, Toronto, Canada (November 2009)

“I developed my ability to see and sense the world around me at an astonishing pace during this mind-boggling week. Jay facilitated the workshop brilliantly by providing a wholesome diet comprising equal measures of inspiration, challenge and unambiguous critique. I enjoyed the total immersion format, with participants sharing all meals from breakfast to dinner. This bonded the group and created a unique learning environment, which allowed me to develop faster and further than I could ever do alone. Jay elegantly managed to get the whole group to participate actively in the critique sessions and the total amount of engaged and useful feedback I received during this week was beyond anything I have ever experienced before. I constantly stumble upon something I haven’t really seen before and, as Jay made me aware, having a camera with me just makes it so much easier to photograph it.”

- Morten Mikkelsen, Leighton Buzzard Bucks, UK (November 2009)

“This class was transformative in many ways and I enjoyed everything. The complete and relentless immersion in photography altered my state of mind in the way that I think and live. Since the workshop with Jay, all of my thoughts have continued to be laced with photography in some way. My every sense has been heightened with an awareness of how my camera can convey what I see, feel, touch, smell and taste. It is overwhelming and exciting at the same time. I continue to digest what was shared in those 5 action-packed, all consuming days and evenings. Jay’s studio, the lectures, the endless quotations, the space, the critique sessions, the exposure to the best, the intensity, the food - it was over the top and is one of the best gifts I have ever received in my life... I am lucky.”

- Liz Hale, Kentfield, Ca (November 2009)

“Jay is God” I heard someone say. Actually, Jay is more interesting. Jay’s photographs are in some sense a transparency of who he is. His 79 year-old mind is restless to find patterns in light, objects, color and always, always gesture. Jay teaches to strive for clarity of thought and intention in our images and by inference our lives. Your images must interest and impress you first and foremost. The judgment of others is less important. He teaches by aphorisms and small vignettes. He teaches as he, and the rest of class gently critique your and his images. No, Jay is not God, he is a mensch.”

- Mark Franklin, Manlius, NY (November 2009)

“I wasn't sure what to expect upon arriving at the bank that first day of class. What I found was a warm, welcoming environment, a great teacher, a well-oiled machine and eight other people who share my absolute love for the beautiful world of photography. All in all, this was the best weeklong experience of my life. What an honor and experience to hang out with and learn from one of the world's best photographers and also other great photographers to whom he introduced us. Jay makes himself transparent as a teacher and a photographer while showing us through his own example to open up and see the world through a child's eye is a priceless experience. I would recommend this week to anyone who truly loves photography and wants to better themselves as a photographer.”

- Stephanie Tomey, Charlotte, N.C. (November 2009)

“I photograph sports and birds. I look at crowds and people differently now. I see more - the expressions, the interactions, the gestures. Did it make me a better photographer- I think so, but I will not know for sure for 6months or so. Would I do it again- YES. I hope I have the chance.”

- Gary Chappel, Winter Haven, Fl (November 2009)

“The bank [Jay’s building] with all of its’ legend and lore; and the non-stop, never ending exhortation to shoot, shoot, shoot. Shoot without thought to aftermath or consequence; shoot life, unfettered, in a place that fairly bristles with it; shoot and show and take the lessons of that showing immediately back on the street with you and shoot again. That is Jay’s commandment. Go out there and be filled up. Get your eyes out of the computer and in the camera, for that is where the muscle and bone of photography really is. I re-connected with very simple picture taking during the workshop. The reverb for me? I will once again start carrying a camera—all the time.”

- Joe McNally, Ridgefield, CT (October 2009)

“Beyond the thorough workshop schedule, Jay offered candid insights from 50 years of living and breathing pro photography. The mix of the two has shaped and advanced my photographic mind more than I ever expected. Fear, exhilaration, terror, realization, self-doubt, insight and triumph were the emotions i felt every single day - it was great.”

- Hugo Sharp, Sydney, Australia (October 2009)

“What can I say that others haven’t already? Jay makes you feel welcome instantly and just hanging out with him, his wealth of skill, anecdotes, and attitude towards life are inspiring. It’s a complete, immersive, mind-altering, luxurious experience that will make anybody a better photographer. Make no mistake, you will work for it, Jay will push you, but you’ll love every minute.”

- Martin Chung, Richmond B.C., Canada (October 2009)

“A couple of my friends asked me what the workshop was like. My answer was, and still is: challenging, inspirational and transformational. Jay’s ability to shape performance puts most other teachers I’ve experienced to shame. The well-planned and executed delivery of his philosophy mixed with examples of his work provided the guidance each of us needed to step up our game and become better photographers. Guest speakers peppered the week with great images, stories and their own unique perspective. The shoot and critique sessions were filled with constructive criticism and plenty of examples of how the shot could have been improved...just what each of us needed to make changes in how we approached and captured images. By Friday, we could all see a significant improvement in our work.”

- Christine Johnson, Playa Del Rey, Ca (October 2009)

“Jay may be one of the most important colour photographers in American history but he has another (possibly greater) gift – the ability to teach. My own photography changed beyond recognition. Rather than spending a couple of thousand dollars on a new camera lens or body, if you really want to be a better photographer sign up for this course. It will change how you view and take photographs forever. It was a magical week, one I will never forget. I will go again”

- Cyrus Katrak, London, England (October 2009)

“I went hoping for a creative kick in the pants but thinking it was kind of an expensive way to go about things. When the week ended, I realized it had been a bargain. Jay’s critiques were unsparing but never mean, so I could learn his ideas about what makes a photograph good and ended up being able to follow his precepts of “light, gesture, color” to arrive at a good image of my own. He got everybody in the class to work together as a group and that turned out to be another important factor in making the workshop successful. I think in addition to being a great photographer, Jay is an inspiring teacher. This week was hugely important in my life and I know it will be of lasting value.”

- Andrea Rosenthal, Boston, MA (October 2009)

“Life changing experience. Any class put forward with such little information about content has to be special. This lack of detail promises an instructor with extraordinary depth, skill, and insight. Someone who tailors classes so a multitude of doors are opened for each individual. An instructor who opened himself, his heart, and his family to a group of strangers. If you’re ready for a paradigm shift, you’ve come to the right place.”

- Jim Mantock, Richardson, TX (September 2009)

“The workshop was an incredible emersion into the world of Jay Maisel. He’s part photographer instructor, part philosopher, part photographic genius, part self-described schmuck (ask him to see “the camera with no lens”). I especially enjoyed his frequent reminders to escape the boundaries of linear thinking and envied his continuing ability to view and engage the natural world with a childlike wonder. The growth I experienced as a result of the class goes beyond the camera and touches my personal life.”

- Peter Bromley, Nova Scotia, Canada (September 2009)

“Jay’s sharp and creative mind opened my eyes to a myriad of things I wasn’t seeing before when looking through the viewfinder. He may have given me the key I was looking for to unlock my creativity. His insights and quotes are invaluable.”

- Juan Jose Reyes, Fort Lauderdale, FL (October 2009)

“I am going through workshop withdrawals - The week was both exhilarating and exhausting, and I wouldn’t have wanted it any other way. Jay packed the days and evenings with his knowledge, his insights and his wonderful stories. Every day we were visually saturated with beautiful images of Light, Gesture and Color. He’s brutally honest when he critiques your work and encourages others in the group to do so also. So when he tells you your work is a “glorious failure”, you actually feel quite honored. You’re glad you experimented instead of taking “the safe” picture. He inspires you to want to go out and shoot, to look at things in a new way. After the workshop, you can never go back to the way you used to “see”.

- Sue Ganz, Pacific Palisades, Ca (September 2009)

“Jay’s workshop is an immersion program. It is five non-stop days of stimuli and growth. He is very personable, very opinionated, very funny, a natural born teacher and much, much more. The depth of knowledge and experience is amazing. His warmth is infectious. The shooting and critiques were very helpful to see how my work progressed through the week. I liked Jay’s presentations and style but also liked that he brought in other guest speakers/photographers for contrast. The meals were great. Great food. Great discussions and great time to capture more images.”

- Rick Yates, Omaha, NE (September 2009)

“I entered the workshop with uncertainty and left with confidence. Jay has a magical way of critiquing and encouraging at the same time. He gave me a newfound confidence in my approach to photography. I began to pay attention to why...what and how I photograph. I learned the importance of the relationship between light, gesture, and color. I studied the content...the edges of the frame...the angle...but most importantly I shot from the heart. It is finally clear to me why it is so difficult to come up with a class description. It was a view thru the lens into the heart and soul, and work of Jay Maisel. It was life changing and did not disappoint in any way!”

- Dede Pickering, Bay Head, NY (September 2009)

“A perfect balance of shooting, critique, lectures, and camaraderie. Jay has an ability to impart information in a casual manner much like a family discussion rather than a classroom lecture. This created a learning environment that was unique and extremely enjoyable. Being in “The Bank” and seeing Jay’s archive and collections was a truly awesome experience.”

- Jeff Slutsky, NYC, NY (September 2009)

“I wanted objective criticism - received that and much, much more. Jay is a remarkable humanist who happens to be an extraordinary photographer and teacher. He exudes generosity and shares his experiences and techniques without reservation. The week was peppered with wonderful surprises and the outstanding meals perfectly complemented the form and content of the workshop.”

- Jim Lewis, Flagstaff, AZ (June 2009)

“I got so much more than I expected. I am a better and more aware photographer, and had one of the best weeks of my life.”

- Anne-Marie Pietersma, Chino, Ca (June 2009)

“The main thing I learned was to exercise more rigor when shooting, and not to allow myself to be sloppy or lazy. I know this will improve my future work. My desires to get some straight criticism were well fulfilled. In addition, the workshop experience was an excellent opportunity to get to know the working life of an outstanding professional, and to get to know the neighborhood charms of New York.”

- Alida Latham, Seattle, WA (June 2009)

“Critiques peppered with good natured humor is one of the main benefits of this workshop. Getting to know the art, and to a certain extent the artist is the absolute thrill of the five days of the workshop.”

- Ruth Renters, Ontario, Canada (June 2009)

“Real learning takes place when there is a change in behavior. Jay's message has been in my mind every day since the workshop.

I have been carrying a camera with me all the time (well---almost), and looking for light, gesture, and color. It's been a lot of fun, as was the workshop. The balance of class, critiques, shooting, computer time, guest speakers and gourmet meals made each day fly by. I was looking for inspiration and found it.”

- Marge Robinson, Torrance, Ca (June 2009)

“Renewing my friendship with Jay that began 30 years ago and being able to share the way he sees the world with my daughter, Anne-Marie---PRICELESS”

- Ron Pietersma, Chino, Ca (June 2009)

“This is my second time in Jay's class. Clearly, he makes an impression on me as a ‘learner’. He pushes, investigates and invites a reaction. He makes honest comments with the added benefit of humor. I think the essence of it is Jay's obvious love for teaching and interacting with others. He brings a wealth of experience and care to his students.”

- Louise Field, Salt Point, NY (June 2009)

“While Jay lives up to his reputation for being a tough critic, he does so with compassion and humor. He also engages each participant in the critiquing process, demanding that you examine your own work, as well as that of others, with a critical eye. I wanted to “push” my creativity - that was accomplished during the week through the process of becoming a better self-editor.”

- Polly Crongeyer, Pensacola, FL (June 2009)

“The workshop exceeded my expectations in every way. In short: I learned to see the world differently. This workshop isn't about jazzing up images in postproduction – it is about capturing better images to start with. It is about learning to see light, gesture, and color. It is about overcoming obstacles that hold you back, enjoying yourself and being open to surprise. The week went by very quickly with great lessons on life and photography, great food and lots of humor.”

- Martin Renters, Ontario, Canada (June 2009)

“This workshop was a lifetime retreat which will have great impact on the rest of my life. Jay creates the warmth of a family starting from the first day and everybody in the group contributes to the experience. It's worth every penny and second spent. I got so much back.”

- Izi Kohen, Istanbul, Turkey (May 2009)

“The critiques and comments Jay did about our images will greatly help me improve the quality of my images. Hearing his philosophy about photography and personal experiences will not only greatly improve my photography, but also I'm sure a little bit of my life.”

- Yves Perrault, Sait-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Canada (May 2009)

“I am now a better and more confident photographer. The other people in the workshop were fantastic and I plan to keep in touch with everyone. The workshop was packed full with shooting, reviews, discussion, excellent guest speakers, and good food. Jay made himself completely transparent, sharing insights, experiences, and suggestions.”

- Victor Glass, Bedminster, NJ (May 2009)

“I enjoyed every minute of it, the flow and schedule was perfect. The special guest we had the honor of meeting were fantastic and it will take me a few weeks to finish absorbing this wonderful workshop. By far the best I have taken.”

- Louisa Michelin, Boca Raton, FL (May 2009)

“You will be able to better identify what you like about your own and others' images, and why. You'll also be surprised what you can learn from others in the class – they will make you want to explore different aspects of photography. During the week, you will start seeing that art is everywhere if you're walking slow enough, and that the best images can happen while you were making other plans. Each day brings something new, and even going out for lunch is surprising. After the class, you won't be able to look through the camera the same way anymore, and you'll be re-invigorated to see what you'll be able to shoot next.”

- Jared Greeno, Redwood City, Ca (May 2009)

“I liked the relaxing atmosphere in “The Bank” and the laidback way Jay held his lectures. I am also very satisfied with how you organized each day.”

- Ola Fiske, Stavanger, Norway (May 2009)

“A week with Jay is a total immersion program. This week found us walking, talking, shooting, eating and sleeping photography. By the middle of the week, my other life was far behind and I was living photography. The variety of exposure, the pace of the class, and Jay’s candid yet compassionate comments made for 14 hour days that were never tiring or boring, rather they were stimulating and invigorating. I discovered parts of New York that I didn’t know existed and I discovered braveness in myself too. I miss being there now.”

- Kimberley Harmon, Kentfield, Ca (May 2009)

“Curiosity, Courage, and Conviction. Of the three I came with the first, gained the second and left with the third, thanks to the inspirational workshop.”

- John Gussenhoven, Naples, Fl (May 2009)

“If you are a professional photographer, like myself, and have a successful career and no complaints about how things are going, don’t be afraid to admit you might be able to learn something new. To quote Bob Dylan; “*He who’s not busy being born is busy dying.*” Get it?”

- George Diebold, Hawaii (April 2009)

“Jay has innumerable amusing stories and anecdotes about the photo industry. He also has a great sense of humor. He is direct, critical, and highly colorful linguistically, but he is never pejorative; his comments always push one to become a better photographer. The slide shows, portfolio reviews, rounds of discussion and criticism, the opportunity to shoot in New York’s neighborhoods, the fantastic meals, the camaraderie of the group, and the hospitality of Jay and his family all made for a wonderfully full and rewarding week that flew by. The workshop helped me to open up to others, definitely to get better photos, and have more fun in the process.”

- Jerry Itzkoff, Pittsburgh, PA (April 2009)

“It was a great week and I’m so glad I made the leap. To anyone considering the class, I recommend coming with an open mind and open eyes. Let yourself be challenged. The time I spent in NYC during Jay’s workshop was some of the most fun I’ve ever had shooting. The whole experience – meeting the other participants, photographing on the city streets, the critiques and discussion, looking at Jay’s work, spending time in the bank building, and all the terrific meals – it is something I will value and carry with me as I continue to practice and grow as a photographer. I am looking more, seeing more, and shooting more.”

- Janet Little, Crownsville, MD (April 2009)

“I wanted to be around a great photographer and get feedback and direction from the group as well. So I got what I wanted and added about 5 lbs of weight too.”

- Cornelius Mateo, Faber, VA (April 2009)

“I first took a workshop with Jay in 1987 - since then I’ve attended many different workshops - some were good, and some were not so good, but his NYC class is the **only** one in which we were totally immersed in photography all day. Jay was by far the best instructor I have encountered. His ability to see and communicate how we should all look when creating images is truly wonderful.”

- Paul Dougan, Salt Lake City, UT (April 2009)

“Jay’s workshop enabled me to expand my photography in a direction that before this week was really foreign. The ability to photograph people, and look for and capture gesture has made my photographs better.”

- Vincent Mistretta, New Canaan, CT (April 2009)

“Expect to be filled with knowledge, insight, stories, humor, food, conversation, fun, friendship, shooting and more food. Many aspects of my shooting have greatly improved over the week, including how I do my self-critiquing and editing.”

- Scott Hawkins, Afghanistan (April 2009)

“It is not about histograms or LCD's but about “seeing”. I discovered that all technical prowess is useless unless the image is there. Spending an intensive week with Jay reinforced the fact that it is the individual, not the camera or computer that makes an image great.”

- Jed Best, New York, NY (March 2009)

“Jay has an amazing passion for photography and everything in the world around him. Seeing the world through his eyes for a week was a humbling and inspiring experience.”

- Jack Diamond, Gaithersburg, MD (March 2009)

“The constant flow of lectures, taking pictures, and critiques was very inspiring and well worth the trip from Germany. I enjoyed every second of this week, filled with colorful impressions of Jay's work and that will be a great source of creative help during upcoming jobs. personal life of one of the world's best photographers. I will never forget this experience.”

- Joachim Albercht, Billerbeck, Germany (March 2009)

“Jay's heartfelt and honest critique and his insistence on some basic concepts alone would have made this great. But then, on top of that, you'll get terrific food, a perfect organization, a phenomenal insight into the creative and personal life of one of the world's best photographers. I will never forget this experience.”

- Frank Nürnberger, Kleinmachnow bei Berlin, Germany (December 2008)

“Jay is hugely engaging and entertaining speaker. At times uproariously funny, he is encouraging but he also demands the best that you can give. Sloppy composition, poor rendering and general carelessness are immediately exposed. The week flew by - and now, with the benefit of hindsight, I remember it fondly, as a week of concentration, application, stress, laughter, dedication and food! I wish I could conjure up some witty or pithy epithet to sum up the week - it is almost impossible to summarize such a diverse and stimulating adventure so readily. Perhaps it is suffice to say that I would recommend it unreservedly and would do it again without hesitation.”

- Valda Bailey, Buxted E. Sussex, UK (December 2008)

“Spending a week with Jay in his home was an invaluable experience. What a treat to be with someone who has had (and still is) a fabulous life and gets so much joy from almost everything he does. Jay is very open, and freely shares his thoughts and experiences with the group. Every day was organized very well, restaurant choices were superb. Arrive well rested, and be prepared to learn and talk about photography for five days.”

- David Matthews, Villanova, PA (December 2008)

“The workshop helped me get back on track and re-assess what kind of photos I'd like to take, make and how I do that. The week was way too intense for things to sink into my being in such a short time -- but I fully expect them to sink in eventually. Nevertheless some of those aha-effects and 'pearls' already have had an effect and are flying constantly around in my head every time I see a photo, be it mine or someone else's.”

- Andreas Bobak, Zurich, Switzerland (December 2008)

“Jay brought a legendary portfolio and lifetime of experience into the critique sessions, which were honest, encouraging, and respectful – there was a genuine commitment to helping everyone evolve as artists.”

- Kevin Burke, Boston, MA (December 2008)

“The week with Jay at the bank was a lifetime experience. Jay's honest comments of my work where objective and helpful, and being able to see so much of his work gave me real insight. The workshop exceeded my expectations.”

- Thomas Winter, Palm City, FL (November 2008)

“A great experience and immersion into a style of photography that opens up the skill of seeing and refines the purpose of making a picture. There are many workshops that focus on technical, Photoshop, digital, lighting and posing, but there are few -- if any other -- which deliver Jay's message. I'm glad I went, and I'm a better photographer today.”

- John Wark, Pueblo, CO (November 2008)

“The whole workshop experience was amazing. First and foremost is the experience and philosophy imparted by Jay to be open and flexible and get it right in the camera. He is a unique individual, and I feel I am a better person as well as a better photographer after the workshop. Touring his building provided a better understanding of his never ending search to be more creative throughout his photographic life. I learned a lot from my workshop mates as well - The critique sessions were extremely helpful.”

- Fred Littooy, Chicago, IL (November 2008)

“The workshop pushed me out of my comfort zone. Jay does a great job opening your mind to the variety things. The critiques are tough, but fair. Meals are taken as a group and are varied, but always enjoyable. The guest lecturers in my session were great. Lastly, I made some good friends in the class, who I expect to stay in touch with in the future.”

- Rob Grien, New York, NY (November 2008)

“The Bank, food, special guests and City made this workshop great - but hanging out for five intense days with Jay was unforgettable. My take away was his doctrine: I learned to go out empty and respond to the world around me, to be open to mystery and to celebrate the beauty of life - and most important to see much more (with and without the camera).”

- Michael Lax, Laurel Hollow, NY (November 2008)

“I have expanded and refined my vision, feel more open and confident about showing my work, and in a strange way don't take myself so seriously ... in translation I am more relaxed about the entire process and looking to have more fun. Strangely enough I think this has come from Jay's relaxed talking and his enjoyment of photography. I look forward to seeing how this wonderful experience will impact my work. Thank you!”

- Louise Porter, Barbados/West Conshohocken, PA (September 2008)

“Think extraordinarily gifted and accomplished photographer, think humorous eccentric, think deliciously irascible, think senior with a large dose of child, think serious educator, think quintessential New York City experience and you have begun to characterize a Jay Maisel Workshop. It is true that the gate fee is high and, from a distance, immersing oneself in a workshop from nine in the morning until ten at night for five days may seem like a photographic Batan Death March. However, the fee is for value well received and the time spent all too fleeting. Jay teaches something very precious—how to develop an attitude, which frees a photographer to capture what the untutored eye would ordinarily miss, and the more formally trained eye would likely convert to the mundane. Jay liberates the photographer within you you may be hiding, whether you are a professional or otherwise. The experience is filled with learning, laughing and a large dose of delicious New York City ethnic food that is varied and unending. I highly recommend your participation.”

- Mel Bergstein, New York, NY (November 2008)

“For me this week was a dive in to the deep end of the pool and a test if I would be able to swim. I (think I) survived. I learned more in this week than in the two years at the Foto Academie in Amsterdam. Not all was about photography itself, but for example about people, art, color, seeing and New York. I really enjoyed it.”

- Maarten Boerma, Amsterdam, Netherlands (September 2008)

“What a treat to spend five days totally immersed in the world of Jay Maisel. His photography is amazingly diverse and inspiring. His home/studio/gallery/archives and magical fifth floor left me nearly speechless. I appreciated his no-BS critiques and "order" to stop doing what I was good at and move on to new photographic territory. The importance of rigorous editing (98% of my images will be crap, so get over it and keep shooting) and admonishment to always carry a camera are just two of many lessons or tips that have already sunk in. Did I mention I had a lot of fun?”

- Char Davies, Buriem, WA (September 2008)

“The atmosphere and interaction was warm, congenial, and productive. The level of organization is amazing. Clearly, every detail was considered. From finding our personal 'flashdrive' attached to our name, to setting up our 'territory' on the available workspace, to the endless supplies of food, you guys left no stone unturned. Each day had a smooth flow. I look forward to repeating the experience in the not-too-distant future. Your commitment to making sure that everyone benefited was evident throughout.”

- Louise Field, Salt Point, NY (September 2008)

“The workshop was very well organized and executed, with each segment flowing from one to the next. More than anything, what made it special was the degree to which Jay committed himself to us, even though he’s run so many workshops over the years, that one can’t see how this could possibly be fresh for him. He really dedicated himself to making the entire week a success. This was an expensive workshop, but worth the cost. I know my photography will improve and I take from the week a great experience I will remember.”

- Jeff Mandell, Beverly Hills, CA (September 2008)

“Liked having my work critiqued, and seeing others work praised or pulled apart. I keep trying to think of something to complain about but I cannot come up with anything, it was a wonderful experience - and I can always find something to piss and moan about but not last week.”

- David Salmanowitz, Bangkok, Thailand (September 2008)

“The workshop was far more than I’d hoped for. The fact that it was a small group certainly helped. Structure without being structured was a definite plus. The possibility and indeed the expectation of discovery was palpable. The common goal for all present of seeing more acutely and learning to execute that heightened vision more efficiently made for an experience of peers rather than competitors. Jay’s approach of incisive analysis of our images but tempered by the disclaimer of personal opinion made his criticism helpful and welcome; the gentle chiding of a parent, if you will, almost lovingly delivered. Jay’s accessibility was amazing! The overwhelming impression I had during and after the workshop was that I had experienced great kindness and generosity. That I was both valued and respected as a unique person and also photographer was important and welcome. I left Jay’s workshop feeling validated, energized, and ready for more of whatever comes next. Would I recommend this workshop to others? Absolutely and without reservation!”

- Chuck Pefley, Seattle, WA (September 2008)

“I liked it all, the insights Jay shared with us, the reviews...I liked the fact that it was a full week. There is a lot of information that has to sink in.”

- Sander Klaassen, Terneuzen, Netherlands (September 2008)

“I really enjoyed the total immersion in photography over the course of the week. Loved, loved, loved the restaurants!”

- Pam Busby, Milwaukee, WI (September 2008)

“I really enjoyed the course, especially the relaxed environment of Jay’s home. Jay’s wealth of information was so well conveyed, it really inspired me to become more active in my pursuit of beautiful images.”

- Chris Opel, Neideruzwil, Switzerland (July 2008)

“Full day including meals, small group, open house for us from bottom to top made me feel very much at home. How come, neither Jay nor Jamie (Jay’s assistant) ever seemed stressed?”

- Birgit Neiser, Wangau, Germany (July 2008)

“I enjoyed the image review the most! This gave me both positive and negative feedback which is necessary for effective learning. I have come back from this experience both energized and haunted! Energized by what I have seen and learned, and haunted by what I need to do to improve my photography. It helped me to visualize what I was unable to in the past and I will always hear Jay’s voice in the back of my head helping me along the way. I could not have asked for more.”

- Howard Ignatius, San Jose, CA (July 2008)

“It was a life-changing and mind-blowing experience. I feel truly blessed to have had this opportunity to get to know Jay through his personal tours of his work, his home, his neighborhood, his lovely wife and talented and interesting friends, and his restaurant choices. The breadth and depth of what Jay has to share are impossible to describe and overwhelming to discover. I enjoyed all aspects of the week. I especially appreciated Jay’s insistence on my shooting people since I have shied away from doing so throughout my many years of creating photographs...or more aptly, studies... with my cameras. I want to compliment you on how beautifully the workshop was planned and executed, allowing things to unfold in a way that continued to interest, demand, inform, surprise and delight. I suspect that for me the long-term benefits will extend beyond the confines of my photographs.”

- Gary Dorothy, Palm Springs, CA (July 2008)

“The total immersion in photography and creativity was very powerful. The pure teaching from Jay, and the intimacy of the group was very successful. The food, it goes without saying, was fabulous!”

- Nancy Farese, Kentfield, CA (July 2008)

“My week at The Bank was the most amazing photography workshop in which I have had the pleasure to participate. I loved the fine art side of you, something I did not expect. The work you showed us was incredible, and touring the Bank blew me away, especially the sculptural quality of everything you have collected. It gave me a new way to look at your work and, subsequently, a new appreciation for what I am trying to do with the camera. It was fascinating to hear other photographers who have excelled in their field give us their time with presentations and intimate conversations about their own work. In 30+ years as a professional photographer this has been the most influential act of change in my career. My advice to a future workshop participant: arrive rested, this deal ain't for sissies.”

- Fran Doggrell, Ulmer, SC (April 2008)

“Five days with Jay Maisel is the most intense offering in the photography world. We walked almost every inch of lower Manhattan, learned the history of the commercial photo business, met some of the most well known and influential people who define photography today, and pushed our personal boundaries to make better images. The critique sessions after each shoot were worth the price alone. Oh yeah, the food. We dined at some of the best restaurants in the best food city in the world. But the centerpiece is Jay and his world. And if you get the chance, it's a world you'll never forget.”

- Glenn Usdin, Lancaster, PA (April 2008 & April 2009)

“I had a great time at the workshop and I got more out of it than I hoped to. I got my money's worth in the first day, the other four days were a bonus! I will forever think of my career in terms of pre Jay Maisel Workshop and post Jay Maisel Workshop. I feel it will be reflected in my work in the months and years to come.”

- Vincent Knaus, Springfield, VA (December 2007)

“I really liked your attention to our 10 meal opportunities. Well done. Good variety; great food; nice camaraderie...the first time I really took time to look around and shoot thoughtfully...I liked the critique sessions, especially mine...Loved the tour of your building and especially seeing your home and shooting from the fabled roof on the last evening.”

- Lenny Lind, San Francisco, CA (December 2007)

“Loved the class and would do it again...Jay was available for any question. I left feeling more certain about the type of photos I want to take and the things that interest me in photography. He exploded my ideas of what to look for...Loved the restaurants! I really got a feel for the diversity of New York City from the restaurants Jay chose. I would not change a thing! The tour of the Bank building and cocktails with Jays wife at their home, were the highlights of my week...They both made you feel like old friends getting caught up after many years.”

-Jeff Johnson, Bend, OR (December 2007)

“I loved that we were talking photography from 8:30am until 10pm every day and that Jay welcomed us into his home. It really taught me how to approach street photography (something I wasn't comfortable with) and made me realize why some of my shots where not as effective as I'd like them to be.”

- Ben Willmore, Lyons, CO (December 2007)

“It was an eye opener...Absorbing this stream of visuals and commentary was a task well worth the effort...it's given me a new way to think about what I am shooting and why I believe someone would care to see it...The workshop message rests in learning, no, relearning how to see and coming to grips with why you feel someone else should pay attention...seeing how everyday situations can become art.”

- Sam Leindhart, Pittsburgh, PA (December 2007)

“Staying in one's comfort zone does not improve us. The workshop taught and inspired me to see with fresh eyes...it changed my editing process... helped me see light in a better way and taught me to let the action unfold in front of my eyes. I don't have a pre-conveyed notion of a good image any more.”

-Al Vinjamur, New York, NY (December 2007)