

# Keegan captures world with camera



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENISE KEEGAN



Keegan's travels took her to the Aztec ruins.

Keegan captured the reflection from a building in Ridgefield Park.

## Resident displays photos in Hawthorne

BY DON SMITH  
Special to Cliffside Park Citizen

Denise Keegan admits she sees the world through a camera lens.

"Everywhere I look, I see just about everything in a picture frame," she said.

Keegan, a 26-year-old borough resident, has a photo display in the William Monaghan Gallery at Louis Bay 2nd Free Public Library in Hawthorne, featuring several images of the world she sees through a frame.

Keegan said to show her work off at a library is an amazing step in a career that is just beginning.

"I have been taking photos since I was a little girl," she said. "I am still fairly new at this and for me to be able to do this is an honor."

Keegan began taking photos at the age of 12 when she begged her mother for a camera for her birthday.

"She bought me the camera and the rest is history," she said.

Keegan credited her mother for her interest in photography.

"I would watch my mom take photos of everything," said Keegan.

"I couldn't help it," said Nancy, Denise's mother. "I was just a mother taking pictures of birthday parties, first days of schools and first steps. I would take pictures of gifts for my kids, the gifts being opened up, them holding their gifts and I just wanted to keep the record of my kids."

Keegan said she was able to add the artistic aspects of seeing the normal in a different light.

"For instance, you can take a simple photo of a tree, but there are so many ways of taking a picture of the tree. For example, you can take it up close, concentrating on

Frog," she said.

She said she also collects pressed pennies with different logos. She said during a recent trip to Disney World she dragged three friends across the park collecting pennies stamped with images of attractions.

Jeanne Marie Ryan, director of the library, said she was glad the library could provide a venue for artists and photographers.

"We think the library is a great place for the residents to come and be able to view works of art," said Ryan.

She said Keegan's photos, as well as those by Gideon Steele of Haledon and Judy Kopitar of Hawthorne, which are also on display, show the diversity of their different subjects.

"We get a feeling of the photographer's vision," said Ryan.

"I saw them on display at a café in Edgewater and thought they would be a great addition for the library," said Thomas Frawley, head of adult services at the library.

He said he was convinced after meeting Keegan.

"Her photos reflect her personality," Frawley said.

Though she loves photography, Keegan works as an interior design assistant with Polo M.A. Inc. in Fort Lee. Her photographs have appeared in "201" magazine, "Elegant Lifestyles" and "Weird New Jersey."

"I love 'Weird New Jersey,'" she said, admitting it was a "dream come true."

Besides taking photos of structures, Keegan explained the subject matter of the earlier part of her career.

"I would always take photos of things up close and blurry. For instance, the concept of having a photograph, which is a still image, showing movement, like snapping a picture of a Ferris wheel spinning," she said.

Her work is on display at the library until



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