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## Burned In

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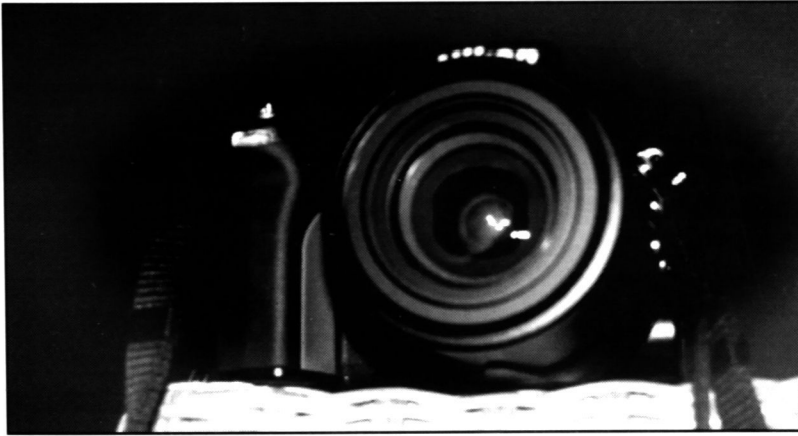
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# Burned In

by Barry Ballard

Out here I'm just another photographer  
lugging around camera equipment.  
They don't know that when I rinse the pigment  
of the world through all these glass filters,  
I'm almost dreaming of crawling inside.  
They don't know that I've lived and died a million  
times before I've ever opened the sun  
to all those secrets I wind and rewind.

This is the only place where I can put  
myself down on paper, where my past sins  
are no thicker than the film's emulsion,  
and where the rain inside me is a scrapbook  
of washed images that have been "burned in"  
with bold clouds of hope furled in the sky.



*Photo by Joel Kendall*

