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Studio Profile: Meaghan Kimball Makes History

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Meaghan Kimball came of age watching music videos and credits her strong visual sensibility to them. "I was a total MTV child," she says. "[They] redefined how we listened to music and meant that we saw it too." This early love for great visuals shows in the work Meaghan produces today. "I've put a lot of work into the other aspects of my films," she says, "but my first instinct is usually a visual one." A Current TV early adopter, Meaghan uploaded her first pod -- about American Influence in Berlin -- to one of our contests back in May 2005. The pod, which was made during a nine-month stay in Germany, is the by-product of a larger documentary project on the same topic, currently in post-production. Her second pod -- Oktoberfest -- was shot on a return trip.

Meaghan is a San Francisco native, but she left the Bay Area to attend NYU. After spending a few years pursuing visual art and graphic design, she chose film. That led her first to NYU Film School and then to LA to work on commercials and music videos. But like many, she was eventually lured back to San Francisco, where, thanks in part to a reel that included work done for Current, she landed a position working on reenactments for the History Channel. Meaghan is happy to be boning up on history and making a living outside Hollywood at the same time. Last month's documentary for example, involved re-enacting the story of Saddam Hussein's life.

"We recreated a Kurdish village," she says, "and I had to stand in as a last-minute villager." Meanwhile, Meaghan is also hard at work on her next piece for Current. For this pod, she invited two high school girls -- one from an elite private school and one from an under-funded public school -- to switch places for a day. "Luckily both girls were great," she says, "and the schools were completely cooperative." Is access like that a result of our familiarity with reality TV? Meaghan guesses it is, but she also says she's hoping to make a pod that is nothing like a reality show. And nothing like the History Channel, for that matter

That's what Meaghan likes about Current: Making work for the network has allowed her to develop her own vision. "I directed commercials before Current, but I wanted to do more. If you're serious about pushing yourself, Current offers the opportunity to do what other people wouldn't give you the chance to do."

Twilight Greenaway