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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Kleghorn photos on display through December

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2 Exhibit in Newfane features images from 'Mexico: Spirit  
3 of Place'

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Crowell Art Gallery at Moore Free Library is  
6 exhibiting photos taken in Mexico by Kate Cleghorn through  
7 Tuesday, Dec. 30.

8 The photographs featured are from Cleghorn's 2024  
9 book, *Mexico: Spirit of Place*.

10 "They're photographs taken from all over the country. I've  
11 been east, west, north, south. I've been to a lot of rural villages.

12 That's where I particularly like to go," explains Cleghorn, of  
13 Putney.

14 She is pretty familiar with Mexican photographers and  
15 photography and mentions a few that have influenced her:

16 "Henri Cartier-Bresson, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Edward Weston,  
17 and Tina Modotti, as well as a few others."

18 Cleghorn worked for the Summer Abroad department of  
19 the Experiment in International Living, an organization that sent  
20 her to Mexico in 1984 as the leader of a group of adults heading  
21 to Puebla, to live with families and study Mexican cuisine.

22 The Experiment, now World Learning, is the umbrella  
23 organization of the School for International Training in  
24 Brattleboro.

25 During that initial trip, Cleghorn did take a few personal  
26 photos. "I didn't have the idea of creating a photo project at that  
27 time, or a book or anything," she says. "It was just, you know,  
28 photographs to remember what I'd done and where I'd been."

29 In Mexico, Cleghorn found "a lot going on in terms of  
30 the culture, lots of indigenous groups, and incredible history,  
31 incredible topography."

32 She decided to keep returning, and in time she began  
33 pursuing photography seriously.

34 As described by the show's publicity materials, Cleghorn  
35 directed the Summer Abroad program for the Experiment in  
36 International Living in Michoacan in 1987, "which offered  
37 language and cross-cultural training to teens prior to their living  
38 with families," and she "combined her love of Mexico with her  
39 photographic interest by assisting the director of Other Americas  
40 photography programs on trips to Mexico in 1993, 1994, and  
41 1995."

42 She has led programs to Mexico for the Community  
43 College of Vermont and the former Great River Arts Institute of  
44 New Hampshire.

45 She earned a Master of Hispanic Studies degree from  
46 Auburn University and an Master of Fine Arts degree from the

47 Savannah College of Art and Design. She also has a J.Ddegree  
48 from Vermont Law School.

## 49 Capturing photos and 50 opportunities

51 Cleghorn went through thousands of her negatives to  
52 select approximately 50 images for her book.

53 “I’d always wanted to publish a book of photographs of  
54 Mexico, and it seemed like it was finally the right time, which  
55 was very great for me,” she says.

56 Cleghorn started taking photo classes at the Community  
57 College of Vermont and studied independently with local  
58 photographers.

59 Most of her photo experiences outside the U.S. have  
60 been either assisting someone, leading groups, or directing  
61 programs.

62 “I studied a foreign language and looked for  
63 opportunities to use it,” she says. “I think it’s useful and fulfilling  
64 to study other cultures and languages and be willing to volunteer  
65 in order to gain experience.”

66 After the success of publishing a collection of photos  
67 from her trip, Cleghorn says, “I thought that maybe I would make  
68 some [palladian] prints for the exhibit from the book. So that’s  
69 what the exhibit is.”

70 She is working on several portfolios currently which  
71 consist of multiple color portfolios in Mexico, Costa Rica, and  
72 Peru. She is also a member and one of the founding board  
73 members of the Vermont Center for Photography.

74 For aspiring photographers, “I recommend taking classes,  
75 taking workshops, and then, when you’re ready, start exhibiting  
76 one piece at a time, and go from there,” Cleghorn says.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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77 The [Crowell Art Gallery](#) is located within the Moore Free  
78 Library at 23 West St. in Newfane. Hours are Tuesday and  
79 Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m., Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m., Friday  
80 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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83

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84

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