

Ron Tarver

photographs

[fine arts series](#) | [documentary](#) | [bio](#) | [news](#) | [gallery contacts](#) | [e-mail](#) | [home](#)

biography & resume

Over the past 30 years Ron Tarver has built a successful career in photography. He received a B. A. in Journalism and Graphic Arts from Northeast State University in Oklahoma. His work has been published in The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Inquirer Sunday Magazine, National Geographic, Life, Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, and Black and White Magazine. He is co-author of the book *We Were There: Voices of African American Veterans*, published by Harper Collins in 2004, which was accompanied by a traveling exhibition that debuted at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

Aside from establishing a successful career in photojournalism, he has built a distinguished career in fine art. Tarver is a 2001 Pew Fellow in the Arts. He has also received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and a 2007 Independence Foundation Fellowship. He was named one of the Delaware Valley's "50 Rising Stars in the Arts" by Seven Arts Magazine and is a 1999 alumni of the Center For Emerging Visual Artist. He currently serves as visiting instructor of photography at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA.

His photography has been exhibited nationally and internationally in over 30 solo and 50 group exhibitions and is included in many private, corporate, and museum collections, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, Oklahoma Museum of History and the National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. His work is represented by the Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, Robin Rice Gallery, New York, NY, The Packard Reath Gallery in Lewes, Delaware, Soho-Myriad in Atlanta, GA and Grand Image in Seattle, WA.

See [news](#) page for a listing of his latest exhibitions.

[return to top](#)

Ron Tarver Resume:

[Personal Data](#), [Educations](#), [Gallery Affiliation](#), [Work Experience](#), [Selected One Person Exhibitions](#), [Selected Group Exhibitions](#), [Recent Honors & Awards](#), [Works in Selected Collections](#), [Grants & Fellowships](#), [Selected Bibliography](#)

Personal Data:

Born in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma.
Currently lives in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.
e-mail: rontarver@comcast.net

[return to top](#)

Education:

1979 Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. BA, Journalism and Graphic Arts.
1984 Missouri Photographic Workshop, Forsythe, Missouri.

[return to top](#)

Gallery Affiliation:

Sande Webster Gallery, 2018 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA.
Packard Reath Gallery, 222 Market Street, Lewes, DE.
Soho-Myriad, 1250 B Menlo Drive, Atlanta GA.
Robin Rice Gallery, 325W. 11th St., New York, NY

[return to top](#)

Work Experience**2006-Present**

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA Visiting Instructor of Art

2000-2004

Photography Instructor, *Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial*. Philadelphia, PA.

1999-2000

Photography Instructor, *Perkins Center for the Arts*. Moorestown, NJ.

1983-Present

Staff Photographer, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Philadelphia, PA.

1996-1999

Founder and Director, *PhotoSession* photography conference. Philadelphia, PA.

1981-1983

Photography Instructor, *Drury College*. Springfield, Missouri.

1980-1983

Staff Photographer, *The Springfield News and Leader*. Springfield, Missouri.

1978-1980

Staff Photographer, *The Muskogee Daily Phoenix*. Muskogee, Oklahoma.

[return to top](#)

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2011

Invisible, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

2009

Unstructured, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

2007

The World in a Grain of Sand, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.
Packard Reath Gallery, Lewes, DE

2006

Havana: A Place out of Time, Silva Gallery of Art, The Pennington School, Pennington, NJ.
Art/Place, Southport Railroad Station. Southport, CT.

What the eye Doesn't See, List Gallery, Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, PA.

2005

Trees, Sande Webster Gallery. Philadelphia, PA.

2004

Deep Deuce and Beyond, Governor's Art Gallery, Oklahoma State Capital, Oklahoma City, OK.

We Were There: Voices of African American Veterans, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA

2003

Homesteads, Sande Webster Gallery. Philadelphia, PA.

Trees, Awbury Arboretum. Philadelphia, PA.

2002

A Sense of Place, (Installation). Philadelphia International Airport. Philadelphia, PA.

Homesteads, Edward Carter Gallery. Lewes, DE.

Havana: A Place Out of Time, Monique Goldstrom Gallery. New York, NY.

2001

Havana: A Place Out of Time, Sande Webster Gallery. Philadelphia PA. Soho-Myriad.
Atlanta, GA.

1998

The Unseen Landmark, Eastern State College, Devon, PA.

1997

Fleisher Exhibition No. 1, Samuel S. Fleisher Memorial. Philadelphia, PA.

A Retrospective, Beaver College. Philadelphia, PA.

The Long Ride Home: the African American Cowboy Experience in America, YWCA of
Brooklyn,
Brooklyn, NY.

1996

The Long Ride Home, African American Museum of Dallas. Dallas, TX.

1994

The Long Ride Home, Connoco Gallery. Oklahoma State University. Okmulgee, OK.
Walt Whitman Center for Cultural Arts. Camden, NJ.

[return to top](#)

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2010

Divergence, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

2009

Third Woodmere Triennial of Contemporary Photography, Woodmere Art Museum,
Philadelphia, PA

2008

Emerging to Established, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Pa

Art & the City, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2006

The Kandy Project, Jane & Bert Gallery, Lumeria Gallery, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia,

2005

Viajeros: North American Artist/ Photographers' Images of Cuba, Lehigh University, (traveling exhibition), Lehigh, PA

Noteworthy, 25 Years of Photography Exhibitions, Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, PA

2004

Sande Webster Gallery, "Black and White"

2003

Impregnable Direction, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY.

Photography: Ten Years of Acquisitions, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

A Pairing of Peers: Artists Invite, Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, PA.

2002

Havana/Venice: Mirrors of Nostalgia, (two person exhibition), Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia PA.

Queensborough Community College Art Gallery, Bayside, NY.

2001

America the Beautiful, Edward Carter Gallery, Lewes, DE.

Photography 19, Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ.

Committed to the Image, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY.

Photo 2001, Monique Goldstrom Gallery, New York, NY.

Network Group Exhibition, Open Space Gallery, Allentown, PA.

Fin de Siecle, (three person exhibition), Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA.

Recently Acquired Works, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA.

People and Places, Atlantic City Center for the Arts, Atlantic City, NJ.

Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers 1840- Present,

Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Museum, Washington, DC.

1999

The Discriminating Lens, Cheltenham Center for the Arts, Cheltenham, PA.

Art of the State '99, Harrisburg and Philadelphia, PA.

Photography 17, Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ.

Shutter, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

1998

Creative Artist Network Group Show, Federal Reserve Bank, Philadelphia, PA.

Photography 16, Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ.

20 x 12: A Generation of Challenge Artists, Samuel S. Fleisher Memorial, Philadelphia, PA.

Through the Heart of the City, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA.

1997

Photography 15, Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ.

1996

Photography: Contemporary Prospect '96, Historic Yellow Springs, Chester Springs, PA.

Hidden in Plain Sight, The Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA.

National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, GA.

Penn Charter Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA.

1993 Photography: Contemporary Prospect '96, Historic Yellow Springs, Chester Springs, PA.

Philadelphia Photographs Philadelphia, Borders Bookstore, Philadelphia, PA.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA.

Eye Witness 93, Exhibition featuring winning photographs from the annual World Press *Photo Awards*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands (traveling exhibition)

1992

Photography Without Captions, Community Arts Center, Philadelphia, PA.

1991

Altered States-Alcohol And Other Drugs in America, Strong Museum, Rochester, NY.

(traveling exhibition, acquired by the Smithsonian Institution as part of permanent collection)

Visa Pour L. Image International Photojournalism Festival. Perpignan, France

[return to top](#)

Recent Honors and Awards:

2002

Ruben V. Burrell Photography Award. Hampton University Museum. Hampton, VA.

2001

Pew Fellowship in the Arts

Margaret Danby Visual Arts Award. Black Liberated Arts Center. Oklahoma City, OK.

2000

Jurors Award and Purchase Award. Perkins Center for the Arts. Moorestown, NJ.

Award of Merit. Society for Publication Design. New York, NY. *Award of Excellence*. Society for News Design. New York, NY.

1999

Jurors Award and Purchase Award. Perkins Center for the Arts. Moorestown, NJ.

1998

Silver Metal. Society for Publication Design. New York, NY.

1997

Jurors Award and Purchase Award. Perkins Center for the Arts. Moorestown, NJ. *One of the 50 Artists to Watch*, *Seven Arts Magazine*. Philadelphia, PA.

1996

Best of Show. Penn Charter Arts Festival. Philadelphia, PA.

1995

National Newspaper Magazine Society Award for Documentary Photography

1993

National Society of Professional Journalist National Press Photographers Association

University of Missouri Pictures of the Year

Associated Press Managing Editors Award

[return to top](#)

Works in Selected Collections:

Banana Republic corporate collection, San Francisco, CA

Eastern College, St. David's, PA

Federal Reserve Bank, Philadelphia, PA

Hyatt Hotel, Philadelphia, PA

National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Johnson & Johnson corporate collection, Skillman, NJ

Mosby Yearbook, Philadelphia, PA

Pennsylvania State Museum, Harrisburg, PA

Oklahoma State University, Okmulgee, OK

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Public Library, Print and Picture Collection, Philadelphia, PA
Samuel S. Fels Fund, Philadelphia, PA
Schuylkill Printing Facility, Philadelphia Newspapers Inc., Conshohocken, PA
Sheraton Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
South Jersey Museum of Art and Culture, Somerdale, NJ
Temple University Urban Archives, Philadelphia, PA
William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
Numerous private collections

[return to top](#)

Grants and Fellowships:

2007

Independence Foundation Fellowship

2004

Gap Grant, Pew Fellowships in the Arts

2003

National Endowment for the Arts Grant in collaboration with Black Liberated Arts Center, Oklahoma City, OK

2001

Pew Fellowship in the Arts

2000 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts SOS Grant

1997-1999

Creative Artist Network, Philadelphia PA

1994

National Geographic Magazine, Development Grant for Documentary Photography, Washington, DC

1993

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship

1991

Artist-In-Residence, Children's Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Sickle Cell Camp for Children

[return to top](#)

Selected Bibliography:

Philadelphia City Paper, "The Road Not Taken", Robin Rice, August 14, 2010

Philadelphia Inquirer, "A 'Divergence' of photographic nuance", Victoria Donohoe, August, 2010

Philadelphia Inquirer, "Two Toasts to Philadelphia Photography," Edward J. Sozanski, October 4, 2009

Wilmington News Journal, "Photog's Work Puts Different Spin on Universe," Christopher Yasiejko,

Cover Features Section, July 8, 2007

Philadelphia Inquirer, "Swathmore's List Gallery", Victoria Donohoe, October 22, 2006

Art Matters Magazine, The Inquisitive Lens of Ron Tarver, February 2005, p. 9

Co-author of the book "We Were There, Voices of African American Veterans, NewsWeek Magazine,

The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Searching for Home," Edward J. Sozanski, November, 15, 1996, Weekend Section, p. 41

Art Business News, "African American Art Moves Beyond Black and White", Laura Meyers, January 2003, cover
Art Matters Magazine, "Photography Seen, Ron Tarver's Cuba at Sande Webster, " by Helene Ryesky, August, 2001, Page 20
Philadelphia Weekly, "Island Images", by Roberta Fallon, August 8, 2001
Philadelphia Citypaper, Time Travel, Ron Tarver explores Cuba, new and old, in his exhibit at Sande Webster, August 18, 2001
The New York Times, Up-to-the-minute Show with Echoes of the Past, Sunday February 14,1999, page 14
The International Review of African American Art, Hampton University Museum, Volume 14, Number 4, page 10, article illustrated with photograph from the Bridge series
The Daily Oklahoma, "Black Cowboy Focus of Fine Photo Exhibit," John Brandenburg, Oklahoma City, OK, September 10, 1997
The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Mysterious Paintings and Pictorialist Photos," Edward J. Sozanski, September 12, 1997, Weekend Section, p. 36
The Camden Courier Post, "Past into the Present," February 2, 1997
Living Section, p. 3
Seven Arts Magazine, "50 Rising Stars," February, 1997, p.34
Samuel S. Fels Fund Annual Report, Illustrated with eight works from Drill Team Series, December 31, 1996, Philadelphia, PA
The Philadelphia Inquirer, "The Truth and Beauty of Ordinary People," Edward J. Sozanski, November, 15, 1996, Weekend Section, p. 40
National Black Arts Festival Exhibition Catalog, Atlanta, GA, July, 1996
The Black Family, Deborah Willis author, Crown Publishing, published 1996
Portfolio 1995, Northeastern State University, "The Search for Cultural Heroes", Dana Eversole, Tahlequah, OK
The Muskogee Daily Phoenix, "A Long Ride Home," October 20, 1994, Muskogee, OK
3 of 4 Basic Media Writing (Fifth Edition), Melvin Mencher author, Brown & Benchmark, published 1994
The Comedian Courier-Post, "Images of the Unsung Cowboys," Camden, NJ, October 14, 1994
"Altered States: Alcohol and Other Drugs in America," Patricia M. Tice, Strong Museum, Rochester, NY (exhibition catalog) p. 103
"World Press Photo Yearbook," Thames & Hudson, 1993
News Photographer Magazine, Journal of the National Press Photographers Association, "Documenting Drug Life," Morrella Raleigh, February 21, 2003

[return to top](#)

[fine arts series](#) | [documentary](#) | [bio](#) | [gallery contacts](#) | [e-mail](#) | [home](#)

© copyright 2003 Ron Tarver |