

**MELISSA SHOOK**

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Member: Atlantic Works Gallery, a collective, East Boston, MA

TEACHING (selected)

1979-2005 – Associate Professor, Art Department, University of Massachusetts, Boston.  
(Continued teaching photography part-time through 2012.)

1974-1977 – Creative Photography Lab, MIT, Cambridge, MA.

VIDEO (selected)

2014 [www.pennyanteproductions.com](http://www.pennyanteproductions.com) A website devoted to interviews by folks who work on the backside of Suffolk Downs, 2006-2014.  
[www.briarhillthoroughbreds.com](http://www.briarhillthoroughbreds.com) An interactive documentary about George Brown's Thoroughbred breeding farm in Rohoboth, MA.

2013 "Jimmy Sullivan – and that, too" TRT: 52:26 A video about Jimmy Sullivan's recovery from profound memory loss after he was gay bashed in the early 1980s when he was a transvestite drug using and selling prostitute and his subsequent long and difficult recovery from almost all of his additions.

2011 "Kemper and Me," TRT 53:49 A video in which two seventy-year-olds, Kemper and me talk about our different memories, experiences, needs when I had an abortion before Roe v Wade and we were briefly married.

2008 "Identity, Have Some," Improvisations by Kristina Shook, concerning assumptions about ethnic identity.

2007 "How to Fight, a portrait of Joyce Watson," trt:47:33 A video about my friend from Guyana who worked three somewhat menial jobs to support her son and daughter and lived in a superindendent's apartment in a wealthy section of Greenwich Village. Topics: race, education, expectations for children, money and class.

Additional Short Videos: Miriam, 2015; A Visit with Lee Loebelenz, 2014; Nance Comes to Visit, 2013; Homage to Sid Caesar; Porcelain Boxes; Nathan and NY; Krissy and her Grandparents; Drawing Upon; Bedrock

#### WRITING (selected)

- 2014 "He Says, She Says, I Say, and Nobody Tells the Truth, Whatever That Is, on the Backside of Suffolk Downs, A narrative by Melissa Shook, Turning Point.
- 2012 "My Suffolk Downs," 30 poems and 19 black and white photographs, Pressed Wafer and Kat Ran Press, Boston, MA.
- 2010 "The Real Story," a chapbook, 28 poems, Finishing Line Press, Georgetown, Kentucky. "Magritte's Rider," a chapbook, 30 poems, Pudding House Press Chapbook Series, Columbus, Ohio.  
"Near," Ellen La Forge Memorial Poetry Foundation: honorable mention, Boston, MA.
- 2004 "The Real Story," *Family Reunion, Poems about Parenting Grown Children*, Chickory Blue Press.

#### RECENT SPECIAL PROJECTS

In 2011 and 2012, I videotaped interviews for the Bread and Roses Centennial Celebration, sponsored by the Lawrence History Center and the Essex Art Center for exhibition in Lawrence, MA. And also exhibited a grid of 100 small drawings and text from Bruce Watson's book about the history of the Bread and Roses Strike.

In 2010 and 2011, I worked on grass roots projects and have had three shows about local issues in alternative venues. "The Community Garden," at the Chelsea City Café, "Harvest Celebration," an extensive exploration of activities at the Chelsea Senior Center, sponsored in part by a Community Fund Grant, and "A Season in the Garden," sponsored in part by a LCC Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant, at the Chelsea City Café. Along with color, digital photographs, I made numerous videotapes about activities in the Chelsea Community Garden and at the Chelsea Senior Center that were shown on Chelsea Cable TV.

#### ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS (selected)

- 1995 "Aging," (photographs, text and video,) The Trustman Art Gallery, Simmons College, Boston, MA. (A panel discussion, "Perspectives on Aging: Perspectives on Dying," was sponsored by Simmons Institute for Leadership and Change and the Department of Art and Music.)
- 1995 "Streets Are For Nobody: Photographs and Excerpted Interviews of Homeless Women

In Boston, Cleveland and Tucson, Towne Art Gallery, Wheelock College, Boston, MA.  
(Presentation by Melissa Shook and members of Roofless Women Action Research  
Mobilization, March 8.)

1993 "Street Are For Nobody," Metroland Medical Center, Cleveland, OH (photographs and  
excerpted interview text;) Mandel School for Applied Social Sciences, Case Western  
Reserve, Cleveland, OH; Ohio University, Lancaster, OH ("Homeless Women Speak  
Symposium." May;) Hamilton Williams Campus Center, Ohio Wesleyan University,  
ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS (selected) cont.

Delaware, OH; The Ocasek Building Artium, Akron, OH; Lorain County Community  
College, Elyria OH ("Homeless Women Speak" symposium, March 29, 1993)

1992 "Streets Are For Nobody," Mather Gallery, Case Western Reserve University,  
Cleveland, OH. (photographs and excerpted interviews. Sponsored by the Federation for  
Community Planning and the George Gund Foundation. "Homeless Women Speak"  
symposium, October 9, 1992)

1991 "Streets Are For Nobody, Homeless Women Speak," (photographs, excerpted wall-text  
interviews and video), Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA.  
64 page catalogue of photographs and edited interviews)

1990 "1701 James Street," Onondaga County Public Library, Syracuse, New York.

1989 "1701 James Street," Mather Gallery, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, OH.

(seminar, "The Group Home in the Community," January 23, 1988)

1986 "Krissy," Work Space Gallery, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.

1978 "Krissy," Foto Gallery, New York, NY.

1976 "Krissy," MIT Creative Photo Lab Gallery, Cambridge,  
MA.

1975 "Daily Self-Portraits, Photographs and Drawings," MIT Creative Photo Lab Gallery,  
Cambridge, MA.

1975 "Melissa Shook (daily self-portraits)," Foto Gallery, New York, NY.

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected)

2012 – "An Elevated View: The Orange Line, Wiggin Gallery, Boston Public Library, Boston,

- 2013 MA.
- 2010 "Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography, Museum of Modern Art, New York.
- 2010 "Åter Till Verkligheten," Arbetets museum, Norrköping, Sweden.
- 2009 "Reality Revisited: Photography from the Moderna Museet Collection," Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected) cont.

- 2009 "Taking a Different Tack: Maggie Sherwood and the Floating Foundation of Photography," Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, State University of New York, New Paltz.
- 2005 "Essex Art Center Annual Juried Show," Essex Center, Lawrence, MA. (Showed 80 clay small clay nude female figures from "Clay," with a grid of digitally printed self-portraits.) Won one of six juror prizes judged by Howard Yeserski.
- 2002 "Show: The Flag," Armory Northwest Gallery, Pasadena, CA. (A grid of five digitally printed images from each of the eight members of [www.umb.edu/flaggingspirits](http://www.umb.edu/flaggingspirits))
- 2002 "6 months/a memorial," Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA. (A web-based collective response to 9/11, a project started by Sally Stein and Melissa Shook, involving images from seven photographers around the country. [www.umb.edu/flaggingspirits](http://www.umb.edu/flaggingspirits))
- 2000 "Photography in Boston: 1955-1985," DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA.
- 1997 "Making Pictures: Women and Photography, 1975 - Now, In dialogue: New England Women and Photography," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA.
- 1994 "Time Recorded: Reflections on Aging," Spaces, Cleveland, OH ("I'm a Day Older, Aging's Issues: Health, Family and Freedom, Panel Discussion.)
- 1994 "View From a Small Opening: An exhibition of contemporary pinhole photographs," Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
- 1993 "Family Matters: An Exhibition of Works by Sally Mann, Vince Leo, Melissa Shook and Philip-Lorca diCorcia," Northlight Gallery, School of Art, Arizona State University,

Tempe, AZ. (catalogue)

1993 "Melissa Shook, Joseph Rodriguez," The Department of Photography, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, New York, NY.

1993 "Anxious Art," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA.

1992 "Ways to See: New Art from Massachusetts," The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA. (with video tape and documentation and artist book, Displacement)

1990 "Seven Photographers on Transportation," State Transportation Building, Boston, MA. (catalogue)

1987 "Along the El," (The Orange Line Project), State Transportation Building, Boston, MA.  
GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected) cont.

1987 "Along the El," (The Orange Line Project), The Boston Public Library, Boston, MA.

1985 "A Human Portrait: Five Contemporary American Photographers," Shelby Lee Adams, Debbie Fleming Caffery, Mark Goodman, Ken Light and Melissa Shook. Zoller Gallery, Penn State School of Visual Arts, Penn State University, State College, PA.

1984 "Twelve on 20x24," (Premier installation of touring exhibition of 20x24 Polaroid photographs, program coordinated by the Museum School Gallery), Boston, MA. (catalogue)

1984 "Massachusetts Photographers: 1984," (Exhibition of 33 photographers sponsored by The Cambridge Arts Council), Federal Reserve Bank Gallery, Cambridge, MA.

1981 "Se dig om i glädje," (six photographers), Fotografiska Museet, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden. (catalogue)

1979 "A Photographic Exhibition by the Four Faculty members of the MIT Creative Photography Lab," MIT, Cambridge, MA.

1978 "Tusen och en bild," Fotografiska Museet, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.

1976 "Photography: Recent Acquisitions 1974-1976," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.

1975 "Hollis Frampton, Nostalgia;" "Robert Hout, Diary Paintings;" :Melissa Shook, Daily Self-Portraits," Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.

1972 "Three-Person Show," Soho Photo Gallery, New York, NY.

### AWARDS

2012 – LCC Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant, Chelsea, MA.

2011 – LCC Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant and a Chelsea Community Fund Grant, Chelsea, MA.

1999 -1981 various grants from the University of Massachusetts, Harbor Campus, Boston, MA.

1990 MassProductions Grant (To interview and photograph women who have been or are homeless for an exhibition at Boston Center for the Arts).

1988 Massachusetts Council Community Grant, (To interview and photograph residents of Chelsea, MA for exhibition).

1988 Massachusetts Lottery Grant, (To complete preparation of Chelsea, MA exhibition).

1985 National Endowment of the Arts Visual Fellowship

### AWARDS cont.

1984 The Museum School/Polaroid Foundation. (For two-day use of the 20x24 color camera to culminate in group exhibition).

1984 Arts in Action, NEA Grant for cross-discipline projects. Recipient Artist. (For performance piece with Jeanne Lee, concert and videotapes, Catskill Center for Photography, Woodstock, NY).

1981 Swedish Government Travel Grant. (For lecture, "Mote med Fotografi," at Fotografiska Museet, Stockholm, Sweden).

### PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO

Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Museum of Modern Art, New York

Fotografiska Museet, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France.

Light Work, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

Visual Studies Workshop, Buffalo, NY.

Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and  
Developmental Disabilities, Cleveland, Ohio.

Federation for Community Planning, Cleveland, Ohio.

The Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock,  
New York.

Lawrence History Center, Lawrence, MA.

PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS (selected)

"Bleeding Heart and Three Stones," 8x10 pinhole photograph, 1992. (with text), Pinhole Journal, Contemporary Images, Vol. 10 #1, Pinhole Resource, San Lorenzo, New Mexico. pages 6-7.

Ameriskanskt, Bild, Nr. 2/83, Fotograficentrum, Stockholm, Sweden. (Work of four American photographers), Pages 24-29.

"A Special Bond," Documentary Photography (Revised Edition), Life Library of Photography, Alexandria, VA. 983, pages 216-219.

"Krissy Portraits," Creative Camera, January 1980, No.187. London, England, cover & pages 20-25.

"Port Washington Series," The Role of the Brain, Time-Life Books, Human Behavior, New York, NY, 1975.

PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS (selected) cont.

"Melissa Shook," Creative Camera, London, England, Nov 1974.

"In Search of Melissa," Camera 35 Personal Pictures Annual, 1974, New York, NY, pages 140-159.

PUBLISHED WRITTEN ARTICLES (selected)

(Excerpted Interviews from "Streets Are For Nobody"), Special Issue Homelessness: New England and Beyond, New England Journal of Public Policy, McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts at Boston, Spring/Summer, 1992.

"On Photographing the Homeless, II," Art and Artists, Volume 17, Number 6, Dec. 1988/Jan. 1989. The Foundation for the Community of Artist, N.Y., NY, 1975, pages 101-104.

"A Conversation with Roy DeCarava," Views: A Journal of Photography in New England, Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA, volume 4, Number 2, 1983, pages 9-13.

"Disturbances: Callahan in black-and-white and color," Camera Arts, New York, NY, May/June, 1981.

"Krissy's Christmas Present, Developments. Text and Photographs by Melissa Shook." Camera Arts, New York, NY, Jan/Feb, 1981, pages 22-25 and 118.

"Harry Callahan, Interviewed by Melissa Shook," Picture Magazine, Los Angeles, CA, Issue #12.

"Callahan, Interviewed by Melissa Shook," Photograph, New York, NY, Volume 1, No. 4, 1977, pages 1-4, 37.

"Consciousness Rising," Camera 35, New York, NY, 1975.

"Personal Politics," Camera 35, New York, NY, January 1974.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Board Member and President of the Homeless Empowerment Project, Chair, Editorial Committee. Writer, Photographer for SpareChange, a street newspaper, 1997-2002.

Homeless Women Speak. Forum with formerly homeless women as primary speakers, organized in conjunction with "Streets Are For Nobody, Homeless Women Speak" exhibit. Boston Center for the Arts, May 4, 1991. To encourage women who have had the experience of being homeless to help define the content of the roundtable discussions and become the experts who would speak from experience. Extensively funded.

1701 James Street. Exhibition traveled to branches of the Cuyahoga County Library, sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and the Federation for Community Planning (January 1988 - July 1988) toured through Ohio sponsored by Ohio Public Images and the George Gund Foundation, 1988 - 1989.

The Artist's Lens: A Focus on Relocation. A two-year project sponsored by UrbanArts documenting the elevated Orange Line subway in the southwest corridor of Boston. Five photographers worked with students at the Humphrey Occupational Center to improve their

## SPECIAL PROJECTS Cont.

skills and document the elevated structure, and the effects on the surrounding neighborhood of its removal. September 1985 - June 1987.

Musing On Our Lives. Performance piece with videotape, Melissa Shook and Jeanne Lee, March 31, 1984. Sponsored by the Catskill Center for Photography, Arts-In-Action Coalition and grants from NEA, The New York State Council on the Arts and the IMB Corporation.