TampaPublicArt

Photographer Laureate for 2004, THE BIG PICTURE photo project

Artist:	Suzanne Camp Crosby
Year Completed:	2004
Materials:	Prints
Commissioning Agency:	City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Location:	City Limits

The purpose of the commission was to commission an artist to photograph and respond to life in the City of Tampa. This project is inspired by the Burgett Brothers Photographic Archive[1], WPA photographers, the National Endowment for the Artsphotographic project of the 1990s; and recognizing the photographic talent of Bay area artists, coupled with the richness and diversity of subject in present day Tampa. The photographer laureate explores the crucial issues and events within the City for one year. The objective of this project is to build an archive, and a resource that will be available for the people, and citizens of Tampa for generations to come; to enhance city facilities with images that are in direct response with the life, and livelihood of Tampa; and to build the portable works collection of the City of Tampa, Public Art Program.

Scope:

Over the course of this multi-year project, entitled The Big Picture, an artist will be commissioned to "add a chapter" for one year. The artist/photographer may either select a theme/topic such as leisure, tourism, environment/landscape, architectural, cultural diversity, labor/Tampa working, industry, families, education, etc.; or may propose a topic to the Public Art Committee. This project is open to photojournalists, documentary photographers, and fine art photographers. Over the course of time, it is hoped to have a full and varied representation of the multiple and diverse perspectives of artists and their views of the City.

Artist's Concept:

Suzanne Camp Crosby feels that she sees things a little differently than the average person. She has developed a "visual signature" to her image making after having created and exhibited her images over the past three decades in Tampa. As the 2004 Photographer Laureate, she concentrated on capturing the unique characteristics and architectural elements of the City of Tampa. She approached the project in a way that she uses in her curriculum when teaching her photography students: the challenge and the objective. The city was shot in a way that one recognizes the images, but also is amazed by them. She shows a piece of Tampa that indicates that she is very much in tune with the area. Crosby shot Tampa Bay the way she sees it; and her "visual signature" documents it in a fresh way.

[1] Regional Commercial Photographers active first half of 20th century.

The City of Tampa's Public Art Program promotes the involvement of artists in projects throughout the city that enhance the physical environment and celebrate Tampa's unique character and identity.

City of Tampa Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs • Public Art Program
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