

Tampa Art Programs

**Project Title:**

The Big Picture Photographer Laureate Program, Vol. VI

Artist:

Jeremy Chandler

Year Completed:

2009

Materials:

Photographic Prints

Commissioning Agency:

City of Tampa, Public Art Program

Location:

City Limits

The Photographer Laureate program is modeled after the Farm Security Administration's Photographic Program of the 1930's and 40's; and the National Endowment for the Art's Photography Surveys of the 1970's, '80's and '90's; and with the awareness of the regionally well-known Burgert Brother's photography collections.

Each year, since 2003, the City of Tampa's Public Art Program has commissioned an artist to photograph a portion or perspective of the City of Tampa and/or its citizens and visitors at work, or at play, with an emphasis on what it means to be in Tampa at this particular time in history. The result of this juried process is producing a public collection and archive that is representative of the life and times in Tampa by regional, national, and international photographers.

**Artist's Concept:**

"I make portraits because it is an intimate mode of representation that allows me to speak to a broader notion of place."

recreation. My project documents the people I encountered during this investigation throughout the year, creating a visual record of their interests and activities.



As this work quite literally belongs to the people of the city, my goal was to create a tender and enchanting series of images that future generations will view as

an uncommon glimpse of the past. This series of photographs represents some of the unique aspects of the lives and activities of the city's residents in a direct manner that had not yet been accomplished by the Laureate program.

The portraits are informed by the environmental context my subjects inhabit.

My commission for the Big Picture Project became my chance to explore the city in more personal way. I used the project as the catalyst to meet groups of people within the community and show how they chose to define themselves through social interactions or forms of

I began photographing the people I encountered during my everyday travels near my home. However, I discovered many other communities and places I viewed as unique subsets of the broader culture. I photographed golfers, net-fisherman, wrestlers, derby girls, pirates, and a myriad of others who represent a wide range of particular interests, ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Ultimately, my hope is that these pictures will speak to the socially eclectic nature of our community while also serving as extraordinary and unexpected additions to the existing collection."

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.