

Tampa Public Art



Project Title:	Photographer Laureate for 2005, The Big Picture photo project
Artist:	Rebecca Sexton Larson
Year Completed:	2005
Materials:	hand painted manipulated pin hole images
Commissioning Agency:	City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Location:	City Limits



Project Description:

This project is inspired by the Burgert Brothers Photographic Archive, WPA photographers, the National Endowment for the Arts photographic 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 facil-

ties 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.

Project Concept:

Over the course of this multi-year project, entitled *The Big Picture*, an artist will be commissioned each year to "add a chapter." 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:

Rebecca Sexton Larson's, *The Big Picture* Photographer Laureate 2005 project was created with her standard pin hole camera process. Her vision was to create a portfolio of photographic images revealing the visual poetry she sees in Tampa through her process

of blending hand painting, sewing, stitching or words and drawings. Rebecca Sexton Larson states "my work focuses on storytelling and personal journaling while juxtaposing words and images". I hope that my work challenges the viewer to discover what might be the unseen or unspoken story of the image.

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 or better yet, make their own story from the work.