

Rob Amberg
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Relevant Employment

Visiting Artist, Duke University, Durham, NC, 2012-2013

Freelance Photographer, Marshall, North Carolina, 1988 - present, specializing in social issue work for non-profit and editorial clients

Visiting Instructor, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, 2004, 2006

Research Associate, Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 2000

Staff Photographer & Director of Communications, Rural Advancement Fund, Charlotte, NC, 1986 - 1988

Freelance Photographer, Asheville, NC, 1982 - 1986

Instructor of Photography & Director of Photo Archives, Mars Hill College, NC, 1976 - 1978

Education

BS, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, 1969

Awards

Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award, the Western North Carolina Historical Association, for *Sodom Laurel Album*, 2003

Independent Scholars Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2002

Dorothea Lange/Paul Taylor Prize, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC, 1998

Alternate Visions Grant, Alternate Roots, Atlanta, GA, 1996

North Carolina Humanities Council, 1992, 1993, 1997, 2006, 2008

Fellowship in Photography, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 1990

Visual Arts Project Grant, North Carolina Arts Council, 1989

Documentary Grant, North Carolina Arts Council, 1988, 1989, 2008

Fellowship in Photography, Southern Arts Federation/National Endowment for the Arts, 1987

Photographic Survey Grant, National Endowment for the Arts, 1978

Selected Publications

Books

"The New Road: I-26 and the Footprints of Progress in Appalachia," Center for American Places and the University of Georgia Press, 2009

"The Living Tradition: North Carolina Potters and Clay Artists in the 21st Century," North Carolina Pottery Center, 2009

"Quartet, Four North Carolina Photographers," Safe Harbor Books, 2005

"Sodom Laurel Album," Center for Documentary Studies and University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2002

"Mountain Measure: A Southern Appalachian Verse Notebook," poems by Francis Pledger Hulme, Appalachian Consortium Press, 1975

Journals, Catalogs, Magazines

"Beyond Beauty: Photographs from the Duke University Special Collections Library, catalog, 2009

"Twilight of a Neighborhood: Photographs of Andrea Clark," catalog, interview, 2009

"The Kingdom of Madison," Big Bridge, online art and poetry journal, portfolio, 2009

"Today's Mountaineers," monthly interview column for the Madison County News Record and Sentinel, 2007-2008

"Who is that feller? Why it's Rob Hamburger." North Carolina Humanities Council, 2003

"The Social Lens: Photographs from the Ray Graham Collection," University of New Mexico Art Museum, catalog, 2003

"Highway Through Heaven," Audubon Magazine, New York, photographs, 2000

"May We All Remember Well: A Journal of the History and Cultures of Western North Carolina," Asheville, NC, 1997, 2000

"I-26 and the Will of God," Southern Quarterly, Hattiesburg, MS, 1997

"BMW follows a Trend to the Southeast," The New York Times, photographs, 1996

"Family Farmers in Poverty," Clearinghouse Review, Chicago, IL, photographs, 1996

"Vanishing," The Georgia Review, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, portfolio, 1996

"Far from the Courtrooms, Tobacco's Rituals Endure," The New York Times, NY, photographs, 1995

"The Engaged Observer," Southern Changes, Southern Regional Council, photographs and interview, 1995

"Into Their Labors, Images from the Southern Appalachians," Brunnenburg Agricultural Museum, Dorf Tirol, Italy, catalog, 1994

"Me and Dellie Go to the Art Museum," Crossroads: Journal for the Study of Southern Culture, Oxford, MS, photographs and narrative, 1993

"Tobacco, Chickens and Junior: Glimpses of the Rural Carolinas," Spirit Square Center for the Arts, Charlotte, NC, catalog, 1992

"Our Town," Aperture Magazine, New York, NY, 1992

"New Southern Photography," Aperture Magazine, New York, NY, 1989

"Rob Amberg: Interview and Portfolio," The Southern Quarterly, Hattiesburg, MS, 1989

"The Independent," Durham, NC, contributing photographer, 1984 - 1991

"The Sun," Chapel Hill, NC, contributing photographer, 1987 - 1999

"Farmer's Legal Action Report," Farmer's Legal Action Group, St. Paul, MN, 1987 -1989

"Manifest Destiny: Unsettling America's Family Farmers," The Light Factory, Charlotte, NC, catalog, 1987

Selected Solo Exhibitions

"SodomSong," Mars Hill College, in conjunction with NEH traveling exhibit "New Harmonies," Mars Hill, NC, 2010

"The New Road," Madison County Arts Center, Marshall, NC, 2009

"Sodom Laurel Album," Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC, 2002, three-year traveling exhibit in conjunction with book

"I-26, Corridor of Change: A Work in Progress," N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh, NC, 1999

"Three Decades of Harvests," Blue Spiral 1, Asheville, NC, 1997

"Gettin' Gone: The Vanishing Culture of Agriculture, Lehigh University Art Galleries, Bethlehem, PA, 1996

"Tobacco, Chickens and Junior: Glimpses of the Rural Carolinas," Spirit Square Center for the Arts, Charlotte, NC, 1992

Selected Group Exhibitions

"Beyond Beauty: Photographs from the Duke University Special Collections Library," Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, 2009

"Hand and Eye: 15 Years of the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize," Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC, 2005

"The Social Lens," University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, NM, 2003

"Life Cycles," Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, 2000

"Evicted Sentiments: Southern Documentary Photography," Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, 1998

"Rob Amberg and Erika Hubatschek: Photographs," North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, NC, 1997

"Into Their Labors: Images from the Southern Appalachians, Brunnenburg Agricultural Museum, South Tirol, Italy, 1994

"Taking a Stand: Art and Social Vision," Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art, Greensboro, NC, 1991

"United Artists Gallery" of Kharkov, Ukraine, USSR, 1990

"New Southern Photography," Burden Gallery, Aperture Foundation, New York, NY, traveling, 1989 - 1991

"That's What I Like About the South," Greensboro Artists League, Greensboro, NC, 1989

"Manifest Destiny: Unsettling America's Family Farmers," The Light Factory, Charlotte, NC, traveling, 1987 - 1990

"Five Years of Independent Photography," The Independent, Durham, NC, 1988

"SAF/NEA Fellowship Recipients," The Southern Arts Federation, Atlanta, GA, traveling, 1988 – 1990

Lectures, Presentations (selected)

Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, Greenville, NC, 2011

American Tree Farmer Convention, Albuquerque, NM, 2011

Carolina Mountains Literary Festival, Burnsville, NC, 2009, 2011

Library of Congress, the Center for the Book, Washington, DC, 2003

National Folklore Society, Rochester, NY, 2002

Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA, 2002

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, 2001

Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA, 2001

Oral History Association, Durham, NC, 2000

University of North Carolina - Asheville, Asheville, NC, 2000

Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC, 1992, 1999, 2003, 2009

Speakers Bureau, North Carolina Humanities Council, 1998 - present

Appalachian Studies Conference, 1998, 2001, 2004

Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NC, 1997

The Linear Conference, The Appalachian Consortium, Boone, NC, 1997

North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, NC, 1996

Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 1995

University of Dayton, Dayton, OH, 1994

Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 1993

Spirit Square Center for the Arts, Charlotte, NC, 1992

Society for Photographic Education, Charleston, SC, 1991

Collections (selected)

Texas Tech University, Special Collections Library

North Carolina Museum of Art

Duke University, Special Collections Library

Southern Folklife Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University

University of New Mexico Art Museum

Lehigh University Art Galleries
Museum of Fine Arts - Houston
Ogden Museum of Art - New Orleans
The Asheville Art Museum
University of North Carolina, School of Law
North Carolina State University, School of Art and Design
Western Carolina University Art Museum
Blue Spiral 1 Gallery
University of North Carolina - Asheville
North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching
Southern Appalachian Photographic Archives, Mars Hill College
R. J. Reynolds Corporation
Asheville Savings Bank
Private Collections

Client List (selected)

The American Forest Foundation
The Spring Creek Literacy Project
The Southern Oral History Program
The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
The Pew Partnership for Civic Change
The Rural School and Community Trust, the Annenberg Foundation
The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
The Ford Foundation
Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual
Handmade in America
The Farmers Legal Action Group

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