

Erik James Montgomery

Fine Art Photographer, Teaching Artist, and Instructor

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Education: Academy of Art University, Fine Art Photography

Columbia University, Certificate, Responsive Pedagogy



Artist Statement:

“Photography is a powerful form of communication because it transcends all the barriers of language. Through my art, I am able to speak to anyone in the world, about their world, in order to change the world.”

About the Artist

Erik James Montgomery is a self taught, fine art photographer who creates relevant, thought-provoking, visually unique imagery. He grew up in the inner city of East Orange, New Jersey where many of his peers fell into the traps of crime, drugs, self-hate, and ultimately, death. Determined not to become a statistic but a success, Erik chose to delve into various genres of art including illustration, dance, graffiti and eventually photography.

Erik's fine art photography focuses on inspirational, cultural, societal themes. His viewpoint is from a photojournalistic standpoint where his imagery tells a complete story in one image. Erik's photography gives a visual voice to every one of his subjects thereby becoming a photographic storyteller and an important documentarian of this era.

Erik is the owner and instructor at EJM Photography located in southwest New Jersey. EJM Photography creates personalized portraits, inspirational images, and provides photographic coverage for special events. Additionally, Erik has showcased his photography at various art galleries, universities and community art events over the past 25 years.

In 2011, Erik founded The Erik James Montgomery Foundation. The EJM Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to instructing at-risk youth in the artistic development of professional photography. His students learn the fundamentals of the craft as well as being introduced to entrepreneurship. The Foundation also creates public works of art for underserved neighborhoods in order to transform blight into beauty.

Erik is tirelessly working on several projects including PSA's targeted at social issues, a photographic version of the Bible and several exhibits featuring his artwork.

Through exhibits, photographic books, public photography art murals and various collaborations, Erik plans to make his impact realized for generations to come.

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Select Exhibitions

1995	"Pyramids to Projects to Paradise" Group Exhibition African Globe Studio, Newark, NJ	2014	"Strong Men" Group Exhibition Congregation Ahavas Sholom, Newark, NJ
1995	"New Artist Exhibition", Group Exhibition Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ	2015	"Black Lives Matter" Group Exhibition Raw Space Gallery, Harlem, NY
1996	"Black History in Art", Lecture/Solo Exhibition Trenton State College, Ewing Township, NJ	2015	"2WENTY5IVE" Solo Exhibition Susquehanna Bank Center/IDEA Center, Camden, NJ
1997	"Aerosol Blues", Group Exhibition African Globe Studio/Symphony Hall, Newark, NJ	2015	"Native Son" Solo Exhibition Gallery East Orange/City Hall, East Orange, NJ
1998	"Perspectives" Group Exhibition Serengeti Plains, Montclair, NJ	2016	"Home" Group Exhibition Markeim Art Gallery, Haddonfield, NJ
1999	"Civil Lefts and Rights" Solo Exhibition Serengeti Plains Gallery, Montclair, NJ	2017	"Can You Imagine Me?" Group Exhibition Rowan College at Gloucester County, Sewell, NJ
2010	"Art of Progression" Group Exhibition The Historic Mansion, Newark, NJ	2017	"Creative Disruption - Arts United" Group Exhibition Warehouse on Watts, Philadelphia, PA
2011	"Candid" Group Exhibition Markeim Art Gallery, Haddonfield, NJ	2017	"Photography 36" Group Exhibition Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ
2011	"The Black Experience" Group Exhibition Newark Arts Council, Newark, NJ	2018	"Resident Artist Showcase" Group Exhibition FireWorks Galley, Camden, NJ
2012	"Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder" Group Exhibition Markeim Art Gallery, Haddonfield, NJ	2018	"Lift Every Voice" Group Exhibition Atrium Gallery, Morristown, NJ
2012	"Art All Night - 2012" Group Exhibition Artworks Gallery, Trenton, NJ	2018	"This is America" Group Exhibition Newark Arts Council, Newark NJ
2012	"A Work in Progress" Parts 1 & 2, Solo Exhibition EJM Studio, Haddonfield, NJ	2019	"Driving While Black" Group Exhibition Noyes Museum of Art, Stockton University Hammonton, NJ
2013	"All Natural" Candid" Group Exhibition Markeim Art Gallery, Haddonfield, NJ	2019	"Art All Night - 2019" Group Exhibition Artworks Gallery, Trenton, NJ
2013	"Psalms of the City" Group Exhibition Imago Gallery, Houston, TX	2019	"Red, White, Blue & YOU: 2019" Solo Exhibition FireWorks Gallery, Camden, NJ
2013	"Art and Protest – Images of Peace, Struggle, and Human Rights" Group Exhibition Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Educational Center, NYC, NY	2019	"Artists Upstairs-2019 Group Exhibition FireWorks Gallery, Camden, NJ
2013	"Haddonfield In Focus" Group/Community Exhibition EJM Studio, Haddonfield, NJ	2019	"Camden FireWorks Artist Pop Up Exhibition" Stedman Gallery, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
2013	"Inspired" Group Exhibit Markeim Art Gallery, Haddonfield, NJ	2020	"Photography 36" Group Exhibition Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ
2013	"Art All Night - 2013" Group Exhibition Artworks Gallery, Trenton, NJ	2020	"Red, White, Blue & YOU: 2020" Online Exhibition EJM Photography Website
2014	"Subject to Change" Group Exhibition The Gallery, Essex County College, Newark, NJ	2020	"Identity and Influence" Two Person Exhibition Perkins Center for the Arts, Collingswood, NJ

