

COLLETTE FOURNIER BIOGRAPHY

fournierandco@aol.com, www.rocklandarts.com

PO Box 462 Nyack, NY 10960-0462; telephone/fax (845) 352-2648

The skills of Collette V. Fournier encompass the best of photography. She has a MFA in Visual Arts from the Union Institute and University at Vermont College and a B.S. from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Biomedical Communications, and an Associate of Arts/ Science degree in Photographic Illustration. She is currently working as an assistant to Campus Communications Director, as campus photographer and as an adjunct photography professor in the Photography Department at SUNY Rockland Community College since 1992. Ms. Fournier has worked as a staff photographer for The Bergen Record, The Rockland Journal-News, about...time magazine, freelanced for The New York Post and freelances for The Image Works Stock Agency. Earlier in her career Ms. Fournier was selected by the Rochester City School District to photograph their 1987-88 educational tours to West Africa. From that trip she produced an audio-visual presentation entitled Faces and Places of West Africa. In 1988 she was honored by the American Association of University Women.

She has had three one-woman exhibitions including a nineteen-year retrospective. Her works have been shown in galleries in New York City, New Jersey, Texas, Rochester, Buffalo, Toronto, Montreal, Canada and the USSR. Her works are in the photographic collections of EnFoco, Inc., The Smithsonian Institute's National African American Museum Project, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Women in Photography International Archive and in private collections.

A Ripple of Thunder!, a multimedia documentation of black motorcyclists in America, collaborated with writer Adolph Dupree was reviewed amongst the best shows selected by the 1988/1989 Art in America/ Art in Review and was documented in the CEPA Winter/Spring Quarterly 1988. The artists' works are featured in Deborah Willis-(Ryan) Thomas' Black Photographers: An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography 1940-1988 and A History of Black Photographers: Reflections in Black 1988-Present, Kemba's Nightmare published in Emerge Magazine in 1996, 1998 and in African Visions. In 1993, Ms. Fournier curated There is a World Through Our Eyes: Perceptions and Visions of the African American Photographer which featured educational activities, a photographers' panel discussion and was catalogued. Ms. Fournier was the still photographer for an independent film entitled Fawns in New Jersey in 1997. She serves on the board of The Arts Alliance of Haverstraw (AAH!) and has served as a panelist for Arts Council of Rockland (ACOR) and NYSCA. In 2003, 1998 and 1996 her works appeared in the national juried exhibitions Small Images of Great Importance and Faces at The Edward Hopper House. From 1998 - 2000, in her capacity as documentary photographer, she photographed the 129 foot replica of the Cuban cargo vessel Amistad focusing on her only African American shipwright Wayne Bartow. Her photographs were represented in an exhibition of 95 African American photographers in "Committed to the Image" at the prestigious Brooklyn Museum of Art in 2001. She has exhibited in Black New York Photographers of the 20th Century, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 2001, and 1999, she was awarded the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, Medallion Awards for Print Advertisement Series through Campus Communications at SUNY Rockland. Ms. Fournier has lectured on Women in Photojournalism and African American History Month at Empire State College photography division. She is an active member of Kamoinge Inc., an African American photographer's collective. Through Atria Books/Simon & Schuster, Kamoinge published Sweet Breathe of Life, A Poetic Narrative of the African American Family with Ntozake Shange in Fall 2004. She is an active member of the University Photographer's Association of America (UPAA). In 2004 received a Community Service

Award from the Rockland County Legislature for the Arts. Currently exhibiting "Amistad : From Mystic Seaport to Halifax, Nova Scotia" October 1 – 31 2006 at Garnerville Arts Gallery as part of the Amistad Hudson River Valley 2006 Tour. The artist is writing a personal narrative on photography, maintains a vivacious exhibition schedule, and resides in Rockland County, NY.