

Robert Mann  
8740 Roswell Road #2D  
Atlanta, Georgia 30350  
404.316.4784  
[robt.mann@comcast.net](mailto:robt.mann@comcast.net)

## Statement

Over time, photography has become a medium of discovery for me. My sense of optimism is reinforced by how photography helps me to see the order and structure in Life. It reminds me that we're not just wandering through a series of random experiences as we travel through Life. It means that even though we are surrounded by noise and confusion; that is not all that Life has to offer us.

By isolating a particular detail from its surroundings, I'm trying to create a pictorial meditation on that detail. This is especially true if I'm isolating a detail from a particularly noisy and chaotic environment. The contrast between the subject and its environment is what draws me in and causes me to feel a sort of sympathy for the subject, even if it's inanimate. When photographing in a quiet environment that's familiar to me, like my home, the challenge is to see things that are unremarkable, under ordinary circumstances, in a way that brings a type of nobility or grace to the detail. My goal is to have the work display a uniformity of feeling that has no relation to its original context.

I know that I am at my most optimistic when photographing. I always feel energized and excited by the sense of discovery that I experience when I find a good detail. Through this medium, I hope to share these discoveries with others.

## Exhibit History and Collections

### Collections:

Shepherd Center Foundation  
The ArtReach Foundation  
King & Spalding, LLP

### Education:

1990 – 1992 : BFA in Photographic Design from the University of Georgia  
1987 – 1990 : Pursued BFA in Broadcast Communications at Asbury College, Wilmore, KY

### Exhibitions:

**2008:** *Shepherd Center Photography Project* : jurors – Jane Jackson, Julian Cox  
*Donald Keyes Mental Health Benefit*

**2007:** *Photographer's Choice* : Atlanta Photography Group

**2006 :** *Photographer's Choice* : Atlanta Photography Group  
*Jane Jackson Selects* : Atlanta Photography Group

**2005 :** *Group Show of Local Artists* : Gallery of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Atlanta  
*Slow Exposures, The Southern Landscape* : Pike Historic Preservation, Zebulon, Georgia  
*Elements of Architecture* : ArtWalk at Lenox, Atlanta; curator - Marianne Lambert

**2004 :** *Southern Photographers 2004* : Atlanta Photography Group  
juror - Katherine Ware, Curator of Photography, Philadelphia Museum of Art  
*Slow Exposures, The Southern Landscape* : Pike Historic Preservation, Zebulon, Georgia  
*Alternative Photography* : Atlanta Photography Group; juror - Donald Keyes  
*Photographer's Choice* : Atlanta Photography Group  
*Intimate Isolation* : New work by Jeff Rich and Robert Mann : 2000AD, Atlanta  
*Only in 2004* : Atlanta Photography Group; juror - Anna Walker Skilman, Jackson Fine Art

**2003 :** *2000AD Artists Group Show* : 2000AD, Atlanta  
*Slow Exposures, The Southern Landscape* : Pike Historic Preservation, Zebulon, Georgia

**1991 – 1995 :** Work shown throughout Southeast in juried exhibits

### Publications:

March, 2004 : Atlanta Journal Constitution : "Outside the Lines: Art at the Edge in Atlanta"  
a review of the Intimate Isolation show at 2000AD by Jerry Cullum of ArtPapers

### Representation:

2003 – 2006 : Work represented by 2000AD  
1998 – 2003 : Work represented by Susanne Katz

## Biographic Information

1987 – 1990: Studied Broadcast Communications at Asbury College, Wilmore, KY

I discovered photography in 1987 while at Asbury College. In order to have access to a darkroom, I worked for the school newspaper. Gradually I began to gain an interest in the more formal aspects of photography.

1990 - 1992: Earned a BFA in Photographic Design from the University of Georgia

While studying photography in the art department, I was a stringer for the Associated Press. This meant that I would photograph scenes and events of general interest to AP's north Georgia readership whenever possible. Also at UGA, I was chief photographer for the campus daily, The Red & Black. Academically I was drawn to studying the zone system for controlling image quality. I also began to look more critically at image management through composition and design.

1991 – 1995: Built portfolio and entered work in numerous regional exhibits throughout the Southeast

From 1993-1994, I served briefly as a full-time assistant for a commercial photographer in the Atlanta area. This was a good experience in that I learned how to work well and fast in a commercial setting. However, my personal work couldn't stand the strain. I became dejected and virtually gave up trying to share the beauty that I had been discovering through photography. Photography had become so personal that I was paralyzed into a state of inactivity.

1995 – 1997: Began working as a web graphic designer

By 1995, I had begun to explore graphic design. My rationale was, if I was going to make a living, I was going to do it with something that I wouldn't become so attached to and take as personally. A computer is a pretty easy thing to objectify. It can be such a process intensive device that it's very easy to concentrate on the formal qualities of the work that's being produced without getting too wrapped up in its meaning.

As the World Wide Web began to mature graphically, I began to sense that my own taste for graphically rich material would be at home in that sort of an environment. As a result I began working in Atlanta at a web design studio in 1997.

1997 – Present: Continued with web work; re-appraised photography after personal loss

In 1998 my father passed away as a result of lung cancer. Two years later, I lost my girlfriend of 11 years suddenly to an aneurism. I think that, more than anything else, the sense of loss that I have felt as a result of these two events, is spurring me on to pursue photography again. I feel like I still have too much to learn from the process of seeing.

As the result of encouragement from several close associates, and the re-appraisal of my early work, I began to regularly look for photographs again in 1998.