Michael Rainey

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Bio:

It is as a photographer that I have navigated my way through the world. Introduced to the work of Robert Frank and Diane Arbus in 1973 while a graduate student in political science, I dropped out of the political science program and devoted myself exclusively to photography with no thoughts as to how I might make it work. I eventually found my way to the San Francisco Art Institute and a few years later was further influenced by meeting Robert Heinecken and seeing his work. By 1978 I was in the graduate photography program at the University of New Mexico, earning an M.A and an M.F.A. Since then, I have often ended up in atypical professional paths. Over the years I have worked in commercial printing, been an art director for an upscale clothier, a graphic designer, an art director and production manager for a horse magazine, taught Graphic Design at the University of Idaho and at Boise State University, and taught Photography at Purdue University. Several years after leaving academia, I stopped showing work for twenty years but made tens of thousands of photographs during that time and certainly had time to think about what was worth my life energy. Like they say, it was a bit like riding a bicycle when I returned once more to making finished pieces. Plus, I felt like I still had photo theory problems to solve and some statements to make. My wife Nan and I share a straw bale house in a rocky canyon four miles up from the Snake River Plain in South Central Idaho, along with horses, dogs, cats, goats and occasional grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Education

M.F.A. Photography, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 1989,

Robert Cumming and Postmodernism, 128 pp, 1989 MFA Dissertation (Thomas Barrow,

Committee Chair, Clinton Adams, Anne Noggle, Wayne (Rod) Lazorik, members)

M.A. Photography, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 1980,

Photography: Reinvention and Rededication, 30 pp, 1980 M.A. Thesis (Thomas Barrow,

Committee Chair, Betty Hahn, Wayne (Rod) Lazorik, members)

San Francisco Art Institute, 1974-75

B.S. Law, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, 1969

One-person exhibitions

2025	Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID, September 2025
2025	Carr Gallery, Willard Art Center, Idaho Falls Arts Council, Idaho Falls, ID, Investigations
2005	Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID Points of View
2003	Rosenthal Gallery, College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID Letting the World Happen
1999	Cox Gallery, Drury College, Springfield, MO Image, Concept, Narrative
1996	Visual Arts Center, Gallery 2, Boise State University, Boise ID Recent Work
1995	Exit Gallery, University of Nevada, Reno, NV Current Work
1992	Fine Arts Gallery, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, OR Current Work
1982	University Gallery, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID Current Work
1981	Santa Fe Gallery of Photography, Santa Fe, NM Current Work
1976	Koko Head Gallery, Honolulu, HI Private Spaces

Selected group exhibitions

2025	Atlanta Photography Group, Atlanta GA Arpad Kovacs Selects 2025
	Arpad Kovacks, Associate Curator of Photography, J. Paul Getty Museum, Juror
2024	Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO Words and Pictures Aline Smithson, Editor, Lenscratch Magazine, Juror
2023	Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Providence, RI Words Matter
2023	Viridian Gallery, NY, NY Director's Choice Invitational
2023	Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette, IN Indiana Now 2023
2023	Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA Members 2023 Juried Exhibition
	HAMIDAH GLASGOW, DIRECTOR & CURATOR, CENTER FOR FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY, FORT COLLINS, CO. JUROR

2023	Willard Art Center, Idaho Falls Arts Council, Idaho Falls ID, National Juried Exhibition
2023	Blue Sky Oregon Center for Photography, Portland OR, Pacific Northwest Drawers
	CHRISTA DIX, DIRECTOR, GRIFFEN MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY, JUROR
2023	Maryland Federation of Art, Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD Digital Directions
	Juror's Award
	Jeff Murphy, Assoc. Prof. of Art, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Juror
2023	Viridian Gallery, NY, NY International Juried Exhibition
	Director's Choice Award Heather Ferrell, Curator & Director of Exhibitions, Burlington City Arts & Lecturer, University of Vermont, Juro
2022	·
2022	PhotoPlace Gallery, Middlebury, VT Poetry of the Ordinary Henry Horenstein, Prof. of Photography, Rhode Island School of Design, Juror
2000	Magnifico! Art Space, Albuquerque, NM New Era Art
2000	Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, Loveladies, NJ Works on Paper
2000	Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, Loveladies, 19 Works of Faper
2000	The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA 74th Annual International Competition
	Therese Mulligan, Curator, George Eastmann House International Museum of Photography, Juror
1999	Janet Turner Print Gallery, California State University, Chico, CA National Print Exhibition
	Jan Driesbach, Curator & Director, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA, Juror
1999	808 Showroom, Boston University, Boston, MA
	1999 North American Print Exhibition: Boston Printmakers International Juried Printmaking Exhibition
	Marilyn Kushner, Curator of Prints and Drawings, Brooklyn Museum, NYC, Juror
1999	Larson Gallery, Yakima Community College, Yakima, WA National Juried Exhibition
	Best of Show Award; Larson Gallery Guild Purchase Award
	Paul Lee, Prof. of Photography, Washington State University, Juror
1998	Cox Gallery, Drury College, Springfield, MO
	Alternative Interpretations National Juried Alternative Photography Exhibition
	Best of Show Award Gary Sutton, Prof. of Photography, Kansas City Art Institute, Juror
1998	·
1770	Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL Art of Photography National Juried Exhibition Peter Schreyer, Director, Crealde School of Art, Winter Park, FL, Juror
1998	MFA Gallery on the Circle, Annapolis, MD 8th Annual Juried Photography Exhibition
1770	First Place Award
	Jan Howard, Curator of Photography, Baltimore Museum of Art, Juror
1998	Art Students League, Denver, CO Denver Darkroom/National Juried Photography Exhibition
	SANDY SKOGLAND, PROF. OF ART, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, JUROR
1998	Barrett House Galleries, Poughkeepsie, NY Printwork '98 National Juried Printmaking Exhibition
	Starr Figura, Assistant Curator of Prints & Illustrated Books, Museum of Modern Art, NYC, Juror
1998	California Museum of Art, Santa Rosa, CA National Juried Digital Print Exhibition
	Honorable Mention Award
	Michael Cole, Artist & Independent Curator, Juror
1998	Open Space Gallery, Allentown, PA Mayfair National Juried Photography Exhibition Jan Howard, Curator of Photography, Baltimore Museum of Art, Juror
1998	Fine Arts Center, Taos, NM The Manipulated Photographic Image, National Juried Exhibit
	Michael O' Shaughnessy, Publisher, Red Crane Books, Santa Fe, NM, Co-Juror
	Murrae Haynes, Photographer, Indian Art Magazine, Co-Juror
1998	Clara M. Eagle Art Gallery, Murray State University, Murray, KY
	Magic Silver Show National Juried Photography Exhibition
	Stuart Rome, Prof. of Photography, Drexel University, Juror
1997	Viridian Gallery, 24 West 57th Street, NY, NY National Juried Exhibition
100-	THELMA GOLDEN, CURATOR, WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, NYC, JUROR
1997	Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH TFOP National Juried Photography Exhibition
	Third Place Award Kenda North, Prof. of Photography, University of Texas, Arlington, Curator
	READ THORING OF THOROGONITH, ONTENDED OF TEXAS, ARCHITECTUR, CORNION

1997	Los Angeles County Fair, Los Angeles, CA New Photography 1997, National Juried Photography Exhibition
	ROBERT FLICK, PROF. OF PHOTOGRAPHY, USC, CO-CURATOR
	SCOTT CANTY, CURATOR, LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY, CO-CURATOR
	Martha Chrono-Helsley, Media Artist, Co-Curator
1997	Barrett House Galleries, Poughkeepsie, NY Printwork '97 National Juried Printmaking Exhibition Roberta Waddell, Curator of Prints, New York Public Library, NYC, Juror
1996	Ceres Gallery, 584 Broadway, NY, NY Beyond Tradition: Embracing Diversity THELMA GOLDEN, ASSOC. CURATOR, WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, NYC, JUROR
1996	Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria, Austin, TX Pulp Fictions: Works on Paper Elizabeth A.T. Smith, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, Curator
1996	Barrett House Galleries, Poughkeepsie, NY Printwork '96 National Juried Printmaking Exhibition Marilyn Kushner, Curator of Prints and Drawings, Brooklyn Museum, NYC, Juror
1996	Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL Flora 96
	Kathryn Hixson, Assoc. Editor, New Art Examiner, Juror
	Gwenda Jay, Gwenda Jay Gallery, Chicago, Juror
1995	Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria, Austin, TX Rethinking the Natural Jon Ippolito, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC, Curator
1994	Viridian Gallery, 24 West 57th Street, NY, NY National Juried Exhibition Diane Waldman, Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC, Juror
1993	Barrett House Galleries, Poughkeepsie, NY New Directions 93
	ALAN WEINBERG, CURATOR, WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, NYC, JUROR
1993	Leedy-Voulkos Art Center, Kansas City, MO Society for Contemporary Photography Current Works 93 Denise Miller-Clark, Dir., Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago, Juror
1993	Barrett House Galleries, Poughkeepsie, NY Photowork 93 Laura Trippi, Curator, New Museum of Contemporary Art, NYC, Juror
1993	Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls, MT Art Equinox: Contemporary Survey 93
	Vicki Halper, Assistant Curator, Seattle Art Museum, Juror
1993	University Art Gallery, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT Art Discusses Life
1993	University Gallery, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA Currents in Electronic Imaging
1992	Leedy-Voulkos Art Center, Kansas City, MO Society for Contemporary Photography Current Works 92 Keith Davis, Chief Curator, Art Collection, Hallmark, Inc., Juror
1992	Cheney Cowles Museum, Spokane, WA Northwest Juried Art 92 Dave Hickey, Independent Critic, Juror
1992	Contemporary Artists' Center Gallery, North Adams, MA Experimental Printmaking and Photography DIANE BROWN, DIANE BROWN GALLERY, NYC, CO-CURATOR
	Thomas Krens, Dir., Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Co-Curator
	LINDA SHEARER, DIR., WILLIAMS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART, CO-CURATOR
	Joseph Thompson, Dir., Massachusets Museum of Contemporary Art, Co-Curator
1992	Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID Seventh Idaho Biennial Michael Auping, Curator, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Juror
1992	Larson Gallery, Yakima Community College, Yakima, WA National Juried Exhibition
1772	First Award
	Terry Toedtemeier, Curator of Photography, Portland Museum of Art, Juror
1990	University of California, Berkeley, CA Proposal for Public Sculpture for Sproul Plaza (with Bill Bowler)
1987	Prichard Gallery, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID Alumni Centennial Exhibition
1984	Cafe Tazza, Taos, NM Real Photographs
1983	Boise Gallery of Art, Boise, ID Third Idaho Biennial
	Patterson Sims, Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC, Juror
1981	Hoffman Photo Gallery, Spokane, WA Regional group exhibition
1981	California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA Sixth Annual Juried Photo Exhibition
	Anne Noggle, Photographer, Juror
	Tamarra Kaida, Prof. of Photography, University of Arizona, Juror

1981	Albuquerque United Artists, Albuquerque, NM Contemporary Photoworks
	Judy Dater, Prof. of Photography, San Franciso State University, Juror
	Reed Estabrook, Prof. of Photography, Northern Iowa University, Juror
	BETTY HAHN, PROF. OF PHOTOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, JUROR
1981	ASA Gallery, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 5 State Regional Exhibition John Divola, Photographer, Juror
	Kathleen Gauss, Curator, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Juror
1981	James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA Exposure Time V
	Roger Mertin, Prof. of Photography, University of Rochester, Juror
1981	The Light Factory, Charlotte, NC Imagism
1980	California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA Eccentricities
	Van Deren Coke, Curator, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Juror
	Joyce Niemanas, Prof. of Photography, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, Juror
1980	Erie Art Center, Erie, PA Photonational
	Bea Nettles, Prof. of Photography, Univ. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Juror
	Duane Michals, Photographer, Juror
1980	Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, State College, PA 14th Juried Photography Exhibition Kelly Wise, Photographer, Juror
1977	Bookpeople Gallery, Moscow, ID From the Collection of (with Mark Lamoreaux)
1977	Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA New Photographics 77
1976	Ala Moana Center, Honolulu, HI Easter Art Festival
1976	San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, CA Alternative Processes
	JOHN PATRICK LAMPKIN, JUROR
1975	Bookpeople Gallery, Moscow, ID The fl.4 Club (with Jeff Stone and Mark Lamoreaux)

Teaching experience

1996-2001	Assistant Professor of Art, Boise State University, Boise, ID
1994-1996	Visiting Assistant Professor of Photography, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
1987-1994	Assistant Professor of Art, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

Professional experience

2004-2019	Principal, Rainey-Cluss Inc., Hansen, ID, Contract Manager 501(c) 3 Pacific Northwest Clean Water Assn.
2001-2003	Principal, Michael Rainey Graphic Design, Caldwell, ID
1986-1987	Art Director & Production Manager, APHC Appaloosa Journal, Moscow, ID
1984-1985	Design and Media Director, Overland Sheepskin Co., Taos, NM
1969-1972	Commissioned Officer, US Army

Grants:

Research Development Grant, University of Idaho, 1986

Photography in the Expanded Field: Computer Imaging into Printmaking & Automatism in Photography

Quick Arts Grant, Idaho Commission on the Arts, 1999

 $\label{eq:continuous} \mbox{Development of a one person exhibition at Drury College, Springfield, MO}$

Project Grant, Idaho Commission on the Arts, 2003

Re-imaging the FSA in Canyon County, ID

Project Grant, Idaho Commission on the Arts, 2023

Poetry of the Ordinary: Photography and Complex Narrative

Project Grant, Idaho Commission on the Arts, 2024

Development of a one person exhibition at WIllard Art Center, Idaho Falls Arts Council