

Digital Art: Project #2

Telling Stories with Photographs Featured Artist: Carrie Mae Weems

Carrie Mae Weems (born 1953) is an award winning photographer and artist. Her photographs, films, and videos have been displayed in over 50 exhibitions in the United States and abroad and focus on serious issues that face African Americans today, such as racism, gender relations, politics, and personal identity. She has said, "Let me say that my primary concern in art, as in politics, is with the status and place of Afro-Americans in our country."



Project Description: You will be creating a story told only through photography. The subject of the story can be about anything (school appropriate). You must include at least 3 images in your series of photographs and no more than 5 images. You will need to carefully plan out each photograph, keeping in mind composition, background, foreground, focal point, and lighting.

You will be given time during class this week to stage and take your photographs (you may use rooms at school or outside on school grounds). **If you plan on taking photographs at your house or anywhere off of school property, you MUST have your pictures taken and ready to manipulate by Friday!** Please plan ahead and use class time wisely! This will be part of your final grade.

On Friday, your initial photographs are due (I will look at them) and you will need to upload them to Photoshop. **This means you will need to be able to use the basic functions of Photoshop by Friday.** If you have never used Photoshop before, you will need to complete the basic online tutorials by then (you are welcome to use extra class time to do that).

After uploading your pictures to Photoshop, you can manipulate the photos however you choose. You will probably need to at least do some basic corrections (color correction,

retouching, etc.), but feel free to get creative with Photoshop if you think it will enhance your story. After you have your pictures fixed in Photoshop, you will create a Power Point presentation for your final project. This just needs to be basic – make one slide for each image. You don't need to include text (unless you want to). We will then view your presentation in class.

Project Timeline:

- **Monday 9/13:** Project Introduction and discussion on Carrie Mae Weems – project is listed on our class page on the art website
- **Tuesday 9/14:** (Mrs. K will be absent) Read article “Telling Stories with Photographs” and answer questions. This is due at end of class on Tuesday. There is a link to the article and questions on our website.
- **Wednesday & Thursday 9/15-9/16:** Workday during class to plan photographs, set up staging, and take photographs.
- **Friday 9/17:** Initial photographs due (Mrs. K will look at them during class), and begin Photoshop work.
- **Monday & Tuesday 9/20-9/21:** Workday during class to work on Photoshop corrections/manipulations.
- **Wednesday 9/22:** Photo corrections should be done – Workday during class to put together your Power Point presentation.
- **Thursday 9/23:** FINAL PROJECT DUE!!! We will view your Power Point presentation during class and critique.