

## Nora Chovanec

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### EDUCATION

- Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
B. A. in Women's Studies (2009), B.F.A. in Photography, Printmaking (May 2010)
- Crescent Valley High School, Corvallis, Oregon  
Graduation: June 2005 (GPA: 3.98), Salutatorian; National Honor Society

### EXPERIENCE

**Documentary Photographer.** *The Faces and Spaces of Brownfield Sites.* Boston, MA (2009–present).

Brownfield and Superfund sites are idle, abandoned, or underused industrial or commercial spaces that are contaminated by hazardous waste or pollution. As the recipient of the 2009 Moral Voices grant, I am currently working on a documentary photography story, mixing both digital and 4x5 film, exploring these spaces and the people affected by the underdevelopment of the land.

**Documentary Filmmaker.** *Rebuilding Faith: The Iraqi Mandeans of Worcester Documentary.* Tufts University, Somerville, MA (September 2009–December 2009).

Worked as part of a team of four to produce, develop, film, edit, and translate a documentary short on the rebuilding of a religious community in a blue-collar town. Iraq's Mandeans were targeted by sectarian violence following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Chased from their country, these refugees have scattered around the world in search of safety. But their religion – which is closed – has presented serious challenges to its survival. A small group of Mandeans is forming in Worcester, Massachusetts, where they hope to rebuild their community.

**Documentary Photographer.** *Corn Farmers of North America* (Fall 2008–present).

Through generous grants from the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, I developed documentary photography work profiling corn farmers in Mexico and the Midwest United States. In collaboration with an oral historian, the work utilizes photography, audio recordings, and written accounts highlighting the complexity of contemporary farming culture. While specifically highlighting the people behind the crop, the stories focus on the intersection of farming, rural development, environmental impact, food security, and poverty alleviation. The final product is in post-production, with a solo show at the Aidekman Arts Center at Tufts University and the launch of a website and book in April 2010.

**Conference Coordinator.** *Convergence: The Intersection of Arts and Activism.* Tufts University, Somerville, MA (March 2008–June 2009).

Organized a national conference held at Tufts University April 3–5, 2009. This was the first national conference focusing on art and activism geared towards students. It featured more than 90 speakers engaging in workshops, panels, performances, a film screening, a gallery show, and a community art project. Convergence aimed to spark student involvement and interest in the rapidly growing field of arts and activism by bringing together students, faculty, administrators, and working artists. Responsibilities included conference design and organization, correspondence with all presenters and attendees, design of the website and conference media, financial planning, overseeing the community art project, managing the student volunteers, and marketing, promotion and outreach.

**Exhibition Curator.** *Politics, Protest, Posters: The Art of Chaz Maviyane-Davies, Favianna Rodriguez, and THINK AGAIN.* Remis Sculpture Court, Tufts University Art Gallery, Somerville, MA (April 2009).

As the first student to curate a show at the Tufts University Art Gallery, I designed, developed and implemented the exhibition *Politics, Protest, Posters*, in conjunction with the *Convergence* conference. The gallery showcased work by three prominent poster artists, centering on the idea of seeing the art in the way it was meant to be seen – as art in the street, in multiples, in their raw form. In my role as curator, I was in charge of the exhibition design and development, contact with the artists, collaboration with the gallery director, and supervision of the printing of the posters, installation of the show, and marketing and promotion.

**Garden Mural Coordinator.** Groundworks, Somerville. Somerville, MA (October 2006–June 2008).

Worked with students in grades 4–8 from the Somerville School District to design, develop, and paint community murals that focused on community gardens, healthy eating, and the farm-to-table process. To learn about the mural process, I trained with nationally known muralist David Fichter. The job included financial planning, developing and leading a comprehensive in-school mural design curriculum, and running an after-school garden mural club. The curriculum included learning about the history of mural work, beginning drawing, painting technique, basic photography techniques and its relationship to mural design, field trips to local farms, class discussions on healthy eating, and finally the design and painting of a permanent mural for the school. Three murals have been completed to date.

**Darkroom Manager.** Tufts University, Somerville, MA (September 2006–present).

Hire and manage staff of 12 student monitors, open and close the darkroom, maintain darkroom supplies and chemicals, provide students with photo equipment, answer technical questions, organize the monitor staff schedule, and manage timesheets.

**Photographer.** Women's Studies Department and Institute for Global Leadership, Tufts University, Somerville, MA (October 2006–present).

Photograph department events for student recruiting, public relations, and other communications.

**Documentary Photographer.** *Aftermath Project in Northern Uganda.* Gulu, Uganda (Summer 2008).

Under the guidance of photographers Sara Terry, of the Aftermath Project, and Steven Alvarez, of National Geographic, I developed a photographic essay on the subject of women living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and examined the legacy of conflict in Northern Uganda.

**Environmental Education Coordinator.** *Mystic Mural Project.* Somerville Arts Council, Somerville, MA (Summer 2008).

Designed, developed, and taught the high school education component of the Mystic Mural Project. The curriculum centered on the Mystic River Watershed and was geared specifically towards the 10 high school students employed by the Mystic Mural Project.

**Teacher's Assistant.** *Art, Community, and Activism* taught by Mindy Nierenberg, Experimental College at Tufts University, Medford, MA (January–May 2008).

Assisted Professor Nierenberg, facilitated class discussions, presented my personal work to class, helped facilitate a sound installation entitled *Harmony in the Age of Noise* with students, visiting artists Bruce Odland and Mark McNamara, and the Tufts community.

**Office Assistant.** Mystic River Watershed Association, Arlington, MA (October 2005–May 2006).

Conducted research, maintained database, answered phones, handled correspondence, and provided general office duties as needed for an environmental nonprofit organization.

## PUBLISHED WORKS & PUBLIC SHOWS

- Exhibition of photographs from *Corn* in the show *The Human Condition* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (February–July 2010)
- Solo photography and oral history exhibition, *Corn*, in the Slater Gallery, Aidekman Arts Center (April 2009)
- Exhibition of photographs from *Corn* in the 2010 PRC Student Exhibition at the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University (February–April 2010)
- Solo photography show, *Women of Northern Uganda*, at the Sherman Gallery, Somerville, MA (February–March 2009)
- Exhibition of photographs in the show *Exposure: Aftermath Project in Northern Uganda* in the Slater Gallery, Aidekman Arts Center (January 2009)
- Exhibition of photographs in the show *Academics and Artists* in the Slater Gallery, Aidekman Arts Center (May 2008)
- Exhibition of photographs in the show *Part & Parcel* in the Slater Gallery, Aidekman Arts Center (April 2008)
- Presented on community based artwork, highlighting the garden community mural project at the *Imagining America Conference* (University of Southern California, October 2008) and the *Idealist Conference* (Northeastern University, March 2008)
- Exhibition of photographs of international women in the Boston area at the Tufts University Tisch Library gallery (Spring 2006)
- Presented a series of original photographs on international women in the Boston area at the *Idealist Conference* (Vanderbilt University, Spring 2006)
- Photographs, mixed media, and drawings published in the Tufts University *Public Journal* (2006–2008)

## GRANTS & AWARDS

- Citizenship and Public Service Scholar, Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, Tufts University (January 2006–June 2009)
- 2009 recipient of the Moral Voices Grant for documentary photography work on brownfield sites and the neighborhoods affected in the greater Boston area
- Dean's Travel Grant for documentary photography work on corn farmers, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (Summer 2009)
- Capstone Grant for documentary photography work, Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service (Summer 2009)
- 2008 Dehn Fellowship for documentary photography work in Gulu, Uganda (Summer 2008)

## LEADERSHIP, CLUBS & INTERESTS

- Leader of Exposure: Institute for Global Leadership's photojournalism, human rights, and documentary studies program at Tufts University (Member: September 2006–present, Leader: May 2009–present)
- Head Arts Editor for the Tufts University *Public Journal*, a Literary Arts Journal (January 2007–May 2008)
- National conference participant at the *Imagine America Conference* in Los Angeles (October 2008), *Art for Social Change Conference* in San Francisco (2006) and the *Idealist Conference* at Vanderbilt University (Spring 2006) and Northeastern University (Spring 2008)
- Corvallis–Uzhgorod Sister City Youth Exchange for volunteer work and photography (Summer 2004)

## SKILLS

Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse range of people, reliability, strong work ethic, and ability to learn complex tasks quickly.

**Photography:** Experience with 35mm, medium format, large format, Polaroid, and digital photography in both B&W and color. Proficient in B&W and color darkroom technique. Experienced in working in a digital lab, using film scanners, high-quality printers, and a wide range of photographic papers.

**Software and Tools:** Highly skilled in Photoshop, Camera Raw, Bridge, Lightroom, Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint. Basic knowledge of Final Cut Pro and studio lighting.

*References provided on request*