

# Sonya A. Lawyer

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## Education

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- 2003 **Master of Fine Arts**, Creative Photography  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- 2000 **Electronic Photography Certificate**  
Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland
- 1996 **Bachelor of Science**, Biology, *cum laude*  
Howard University, Washington, DC

## Residencies

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- 2007 **Light Work Artist's Residency**  
Light Work, Syracuse, New York
- 2004-2005 **Maryland Art Place 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Critics' Residency**  
*Critic in Residence*: Franklin Sirmans
- 2004 **The Sixth Annual Sydney Kahn Summer Institute at The Kitchen**  
Site and Performance in the Digital Age, New York, New York  
*Mentors*: Marina Zurkow and Stephan Koplowitz
- 2002 **National Graduate Seminar**  
The Photography Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York  
*Jurors*: Sarah Hart, Robert Rindler, and Winston Kennedy

## Solo Exhibitions

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- 2012 **Solo Exhibition**  
McGrath Library, Hilbert College, Hamburg, New York
- 2008 **Creating Humanity (amidst the illusion of our separateness)**  
Delaplaine Visual Arts Center, Frederick, Maryland
- 2008 **Finding Authenticity (does anyone remember?)**  
GRACE - Greater Reston Center for the Arts, Reston, Virginia
- 2007 **Searching for Beulah (limit of disturbance)**  
Howard County Center of African American Culture's  
Research Library, Columbia, Maryland  
Sponsored by The Pierians, Inc.
- 2006 **Searching for Beulah (limit of disturbance)**  
School 33 - Gallery II, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2006 **(Eclectic + Funky) + Melancholy= 1995 to 2005**  
Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania

### Solo Exhibitions continued

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- 2005            **Bella Nonna: Girasole-Sempre Vivere**  
The Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2003            **Southern Roots: Black Madonnas-Black Magnolias**  
University Gallery, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- 2002            **The Sweet Sixteen Suite**  
Focus Gallery, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- 2001            **Sempre Vivere (Mia Nonna è Italiana)**  
Focus Gallery, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

### Group Exhibitions, Performances, & Screenings

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- 2013            **Emerge Art Fair (Sponsored by Flashpoint Gallery)**  
Capitol Skyline Hotel, Washington, DC
- 2011            **Three Person Exhibition with Jacqui Croquetta and Rachel Rotenberg**  
Black Rock Arts Center, Germantown, Maryland
- 2010            **MAS 10" x 10"**  
The Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, Washington, DC
- 2010            **Boxed In/Outside the Box (Artscape 2010)**  
The Galleries at CCBC, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2010            **Artscape 2010 Exhibition**  
Eubie Blake Cultural Center, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2009            **Atlanta Celebrates Photography Portfolio Walk**  
Grady High School, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2009            **Three Sisters: The Art of Robin Holder, Sonya A. Lawyer  
and Tamara Natalie Madden**  
Community Folk Art Center, Syracuse, New York
- 2009            **CONNECTIONS**  
Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, New York and San Francisco, California
- 2009            **Chromatic Aberrations (Art Institute of Washington Faculty Show)**  
Art Institute of Washington Gallery, Arlington, Virginia
- 2008            **artVIEW 2008**  
Presented by Umbrella Arts, New York, New York  
DAR Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.
- 2008            **New Works Online Gallery at [www.silvereyecenter.org](http://www.silvereyecenter.org)**  
Presented by Silver Eye Center for Photography  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## Group Exhibitions, Performances, & Screenings continued

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- 2008      **As It Happens: Recent Light Work Artists in Residence**  
Robert B. Menschel Photography Gallery at the Schine Student Center  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
- 2008      **La Femme**  
Project 3: Empowered by Artistry  
Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, Washington, D.C.
- 2007      **Variable Views: Identify**  
Villa Julie College Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland  
*Curator:* Diane DiSalvo, Director, Villa Julie College Gallery
- 2007      **Period Pieces**  
Eubie Blake Cultural Center Art Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2007      **Portfolio Viewing at Review Santa Fe**  
El Museo De Cultural, Santa, Fe, New Mexico  
*Jurors:* Steve Fitch, College of Santa Fe; Michele Penhall, Curator of Prints and Photographs, University of New Mexico Art Museum; and Janet Russek, Scheinbaum & Russek
- 2007      **Annual Members' Juried Exhibition**  
Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, Delaware  
*Juror:* Alex Baker, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
- 2007      **10<sup>th</sup> New Works Exhibition presented by En Foco**  
Longwood Art Gallery, Bronx, New York  
*Juror:* Alison Nordstrom, George Eastman House
- 2007      **Bi-Annual Faculty Exhibition**  
Stephanie Roper Gallery, Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Maryland
- 2006      **National Juried Photography Exhibition**  
1212 Gallery, Richmond, Virginia  
*Juror:* Stephen Perloff, The Photo Review
- 2006      **ReFresh Print Biennial II: *Global Networks and Intimate Exchanges***  
Lawton Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay  
*Jurors:* Sarah Detweiler and Christine Style
- 2006      **Migrations of the African Diaspora (catalog)**  
Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
*Juror:* Lydia Thompson, Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2006      **Smoke and Mirrors: Photography and Performance (catalog)**  
Ohio University School of Art Gallery, Athens, Ohio  
*Juror:* Jeffrey Byrd
- 2006      **AFRICA!**  
Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, Virginia  
*Juror:* Martha Jackson-Jarvis

## Group Exhibitions, Performances, & Screenings continued

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- 2005            **SEVEN**  
Warehouse Theatre and Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
*Curator:* F. Lennox Campello
- 2005            **Just Looking**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Critics Residency Exhibition** (catalog)  
Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, Maryland  
*Curator:* Franklin Sirmans
- 2005            **Regional Juried Photography Exhibition**  
Washington School of Photography, Bethesda, Maryland
- 2004            **Foto Future**  
Battle Creek Art Center, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 2004            **Site and Performance in the Digital Age**  
**The Sixth Annual Sidney Kahn Summer Institute at The Kitchen**  
Chelsea Waterside Park, New York, New York
- 2004            **Visual Journey: Enslavement, Underground Railroad, Freedom** (catalog)  
Northern Kentucky University and the National Underground Railroad  
Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio  
*Juror:* Michael Ray Charles
- 2004            **In2Words: Numbers and Words**  
Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, Virginia  
*Juror:* Krystyna Wasserman, Curator of Book Arts at the National Museum of Women in the Arts
- 2004            **2002 National Graduate Seminar Fellows Portfolio Exchange**  
SRO Gallery, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
- 2004            **Summer Light**  
Members Group Show, Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2004            **The Nine New Ones**  
New Members Group Show, Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2004            **Sketches: Allusions to Reality**  
Members Group Show, Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2003            **27th Anniversary Group Show**  
Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2003            **Scene/Unseen '03** (catalog)  
Runnels Gallery, Eastern New Mexico University  
*Juror:* Amei Wallach

## Group Exhibitions, Performances, & Screenings continued

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- 2003      **Photography: Traditional to Experimental**  
Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
*Juror:* Joe Mills
- 2003      **Spectre, Spectacle, Speculation**  
Still Life in G Gallery, Gainesville, Florida
- 2003      **more than Code** (*traveling exhibition*)  
Sommers Gallery, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Union Gallery, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona  
Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan  
Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo, New York
- 2003      **Young Photography: Multiple Expressions** (*traveling exhibition*)  
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts  
Anderson Gallery, State University of New York at Buffalo  
Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, New York
- 2003      **Images as Projections**  
Warren Robbins Gallery  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 2003      **Presorted, First Class** (*catalog*)  
17<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Student Arts Exhibition  
University Gallery, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
*Juror:* Robert C. Hanning
- 2002      **The Projected Image: Visual to Political**  
“the gallery” at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- 2002      **2002 National Graduate Seminar Fellows Exhibition**  
Neiman Center, Columbia University, New York, New York
- 2002      **Articulating Wildly**  
Photography and Electronic Intermedia Graduate Student Show  
Sergio Vega’s Studio Gallery, Gainesville, Florida
- 2002      **Rave for the River**  
The Art Store, Gainesville, Florida
- 2002      **Slacker Supreme**  
Photography and Electronic Intermedia Graduate Student Show  
Sergio Vega’s Studio Gallery, Gainesville, Florida
- 2001      **Mostra**  
University of Georgia Study Abroad Exhibition  
Palazzo Vagnotti, Cortona, Italy
- 2001      **Gradual**  
Graduate Arts Association Annual Spring Show  
“the gallery” at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

## Group Exhibitions, Performances, & Screenings continued

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- 2000            **2000 A.D.D.**  
Advanced Photography Show, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- 2000            **Annual Student Show**  
Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland

## Exhibitions organized, curated, and juried

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- 2011            **YUM 3: A Visual Feast**  
Gallery 1820, Art Institute of Washington, Arlington, Virginia
- 2010            **YUM 2: Even Yummier**  
Gallery 1820, Art Institute of Washington, Arlington, Virginia
- 2009            **YUM! Contemporary DC Photographers Explore the Beauty of Food**  
Gallery 1820, Art Institute of Washington, Arlington, Virginia
- 2005            **Photography Juror**  
NAACP ACT-SO Competition  
Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland
- 2005            **PROOF**  
George Mason University  
Exhibition held to coincide with the 2005 Society for Photographic Education  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference  
Juror: Chan Chao
- 2004            **DIALOGUE art. technology. imagery.**  
Montpelier Cultural Arts Center, Laurel, Maryland  
Exhibition held to coincide with the 2004 Society for Photographic Education  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference  
Co-juried Exhibition with Cheryl Younger
- 2002            **The Projected Image: (Visual to Political)**  
Work by the 2002 National Graduate Seminar Fellows  
"the gallery" at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
Curated and organized exhibition

## Bibliography

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"ArtWorks this Week" Maryland Public Television, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Allen-Kattus, Kimberly. Visual Journey: Enslavement, Underground Railroad, Freedom. Highland Heights: Northern Kentucky University Press, 2004.

Bowers, J. "Residents In? MAP's Critic Residency Program Produces A Curious Grab-Bag Show." Baltimore City Paper 27 April 2005: 38-39.

Campello, F. Lennox. "A Seductive Lawyer" Old Town Crier February 2008: 11-12.

CONTACT SHEET 148. Light Work, Syracuse, New York

Exhibition Announcement with color picture,  
The Gainesville Sun 12 October 2001: 14-15.

Gebhardt, Sara. "From Computers, a New Landscape of Images"  
The Washington Post 16 Sep 2004: T10.

Hayes, Jeffreen. "Sonya Lawyer/Old Subject/Traditional Craft/New Technology".  
The International Review of African American Art 22:2.

Kosin, Leah K. "Focus Exhibits Open at GRACE".  
The Fairfax County Observer 18 January 2008

McNatt, Glenn. "MAP show is a striking snapshot of regional art."  
The Baltimore Sun 5 May 2005: E21.

Nordstrom, Allison Devine. "NW#10 Honorable Mention Artists: Sonya Lawyer, Emilo Banuelos, LaToya Frazier, and William Wilson." Nueva Luz photographic journal 11:3.

Mellama, Kevin. "Northern Virginia Art Beat: Focus Exhibition features the work of artists Anne Fine Foer and Sonya A. Lawyer". Falls Church News-Press 16 January 2008.

Rems, Janet. "GRACE 'Focus' Exhibition focuses on family, other connections"  
The Fairfax Times 6 February 2008.

Thomas, Mary. "Art Review: Exhibition looks at Hurricane Katrina's Diaspora"  
The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 25 July 2006.

**Presentations**

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- 2009      **Panel Discussion**  
Three Sisters Exhibition  
Community Folk Art Center, Syracuse, New York
  
- 2008      **Gallery Talk**  
“Finding Authenticity (does anyone remember?)”  
GRACE, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, Virginia
  
- 2007      **Gallery Talk**  
“Searching for Beulah (limit of disturbance)”  
Howard County Center of African American Culture's Research Library
  
- 2006      **Gallery Talk**  
(Eclectic + Funky)/Melancholy =1995-2005  
Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania
  
- 2005      **Artist’s Presentation**  
An Evening of Expression  
Sponsored by Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Oakland Manor, Columbia, Maryland
  
- 2005      **Artist’s Presentation**  
Celebration of Women in the Arts  
Sponsored by Patuxent Valley Chapter of Links, Inc.  
Deer Park Magnet School, Randallstown, Maryland
  
- 2004      **Artist’s Presentation**  
Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania
  
- 2003      **Graduate Student Presenter**  
Society for Photographic Education Annual Conference in Austin, Texas
  
- 2003      **Graduate Student Forum Presenter**  
Sponsored by the Graduate Student Council, University of Florida

**Professional Affiliations**

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- 2001-present      Member of The College Arts Association
  
- 2001-present      Member of The Society for Photographic Education
  
- 2011-2013      Mid-Atlantic Board Member, Secretary
  
- 2003-2005      Mid-Atlantic Board Member  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Chair (2003 - 2004)  
Mid-Atlantic Website Editor (2004 - 2005)



## Honors

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2009	Individual Artist's Award (Photography) from the Maryland State Art's Council
2006	Honorable Mention in 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual New Works Awards presented by En Foco, Inc. and juried by Alison Nordstrom
2005	Semi-Finalist for The Trawick Prize
2004	Semi-Finalist for The Trawick Prize
2002	National Graduate Seminar Fellowship from The Photography Institute
2000-2003	Fellowship from the University of Florida
1994	Inducted into Golden Key National Honor Society
1994	Inducted into Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society
1992-1996	Recipient of Howard University Achievement Scholarship

## Collections

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The Getty Institute (The Photography Institute Archive)  
The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University  
Light Work, Syracuse, New York

## Websites

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Designed, published, and maintain:

- [www.SonyaLawyer.com](http://www.SonyaLawyer.com)
- [www.apeaceofthedream.com](http://www.apeaceofthedream.com)

## Current Employment

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2008 - present	Full-time Faculty Art Institute of Washington, Arlington, Virginia
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