

DONA SCHWARTZ PHOTOGRAPHER

3024 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

LECTURES AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Dona Schwartz is a photographer whose work explores everyday life and culture. She earned her PhD at the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to working as a photographic artist she is also a visual communication scholar and educator. Among her academic publications are two photographic ethnographies, *Waucoma Twilight: Generations of the Farm* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992) and *Contesting the Super Bowl* (Routledge, 1997). In 2011 she was awarded third prize in the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Competition at the National Portrait Gallery, London and Honorable Mention in the Santa Fe Prize for Photography. She is a past-President of the International Visual Sociology Association. Her photographic monograph, *In the Kitchen*, was published by Kehrer Verlag in 2009. Her current project, *On the Nest*, continues her programmatic examination of domestic life and transitional moments in the life course.

Her photographs have been internationally exhibited and published, and her work is included in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Musée de l'Elysée, the George Eastman House, the Harry Ransom Center, the Portland Art Museum, and the Kinsey Institute. She is on the faculty of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota, where she has been the curricular leader in visual communication for more than twenty-five years.

Dona's gallery talks and lectures embrace multiple issues. Drawing upon her background as an ethnographer and her training as a social scientist she is well-positioned to discuss the relationship between making art and sociological and anthropological research. She has lectured extensively on the relationship between photographic representation and the realities upon which pictures draw. She thoughtfully examines the institutional contexts and relationships among different arenas of photographic production and the influences of professional practices and institutional contexts on aesthetics. And, drawing upon her keen interest in representing the profundity of daily life, she is an advocate for systematically examining and representing the contemporary family and key moments in the life course. In addition to giving talks that address the themes represented in her own work, Dona is able to conduct workshops that motivate and assist participants of all ages to become the narrators of their own life stories. She provides a framework for making and sharing photographs of the fundamental, commonplace activities, events and interactions that make us who we are as members of the human family, so that, together, we can tell the story of contemporary life as it unfolds every day, in our midst.

Presentations can vary in length from 30 to 90 minutes plus Q&A. Workshops can be tailored to one-day, two-day or one-week modules. Dona is also available to speak on panels with other artists or scholars.

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