

Jeanine Michna-Bales

Jeanine Michna-Bales is a conceptual fine artist working in the medium of photography. Her work explores the relationship between past events and their continued impact on contemporary society. She meticulously researches each topic — considering different viewpoints, causes and effects, and political climates — and often incorporates found or archival text into her projects.

A comprehensive publication of the Underground Railroad series, *Through Darkness to Light*, was released in 2017 by Princeton Architectural Press and includes a foreword by Andrew Young. An accompanying traveling exhibition through Mid-America Arts Alliance is currently touring the country through 2024. Images from this series have appeared in solo and group exhibitions around the United States, including The Phillips Collection in Washington DC, *Moving Walls 23: Journeys* at Open Society Foundations in New York City, *Southern Exposure: Portraits of a Changing Landscape* at MOCA | Jacksonville, and the traveling exhibition *Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South*.

Her work has been featured in numerous publications and online blogs, including New York Times Lens Blog, UK Daily Mail, In Sight by The Washington Post, Smithsonian.com, Virginia Quarterly Review, Transition from Harvard University, Geo Historie, Lenscratch, and Wired Raw File. Michna-Bales was named to the Critical Mass Top 50 in 2014 and in 2017.

Among other honors, her work was selected for the 2016 Documentarian of The American South Collection Award from the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University. She was awarded the top Portfolio Review Prize at PhotoNOLA 2015, resulting in a solo show at the New Orleans Photo Alliance Gallery during PhotoNOLA 2016.

She conceives and presents her projects in a way that spark curiosity about a given subject and encourage discourse among audiences of all backgrounds. Whether exploring the darkened stations along the Underground Railroad in *Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad* (2002 - 2016), a campaign trail for women's votes in *Standing Together: Inez Milholland Boissevain's Final Campaign for Women's Suffrage* (2016 - present), long-forgotten nuclear fallout shelters in *Fallout: A Look Back at the Height of the Cold War in America through Photographs and Propaganda* (2013 - present), or the invisible epicenters of environmental turmoil through the project entitled *Frack-tured: Seismic Activity in the Barnett Shale* (2015 - present), her work seeks out places that are hidden in plain sight.