

**Featured Fellow: Nancy M. McEntee**  
**Photographer**



*2010 - Cleveland*

### **Why have you chosen Cuyahoga County as a place to live and work?**

I was born in Cleveland and it is my home and my family is here. While I have lived elsewhere, I believe in the City and Cuyahoga County has a lot to offer artists including affordable housing and studio space and a supportive arts and corporate community. CPAC, the Creative Workforce Fellowship and Artist as Entrepreneur Institute are exemplary examples of the support we have available to us. I have also found there are many unsung heroes who work diligently, often behind the scenes in Cleveland fostering the arts and helping to sustain us as artists in the community.

### **What is your favorite place, event, or “hidden gem” in Cuyahoga County?**

The Cleveland Metroparks has been a place I have loved since childhood and currently live near and

enjoy frequently. Visitors from out of town are often astonished by this incredible local feature we Clevelanders often take for granted.

I also enjoy the places in Cleveland that are rich in cultural history that were settled by immigrants many years ago and have been regularly re-invigorated quite often through the participation of artists and visionaries such as Tremont, Ohio City and the Detroit-Shoreway area.

### **Who or what has influenced you locally and elsewhere?**

My husband and daughter are both inspirational to me in terms of creative stimulation and support of my practice.

### **How do you generate new ideas?**

My ideas evolve out of my life experiences and my interest in family. Literature and cinematography also play a part, though most often less literal.

### **What is the hardest part about creating?**

The most difficult part of creating for me is finding large blocks of uninterrupted time to devote to doing my artwork.

### **What is the best moment you have had creating or presenting your work?**

There have been many times where I have felt the exhilaration of creating artwork that was a manifestation of my ideas. Often the act of photographing has been an event of greater significance to myself or the sitter than the resulting images and this is deeply gratifying for me when it happens.

I find it very satisfying when viewers of my work give me feedback that reinforces my belief that photography (and art in general) can elicit deep

responses from a viewer whether it is emotional or intellectual.

### **How has the Creative Workforce Fellowship affected your career as an artist or your artwork?**

The Creative Workforce Fellowship award was an incredible acknowledgement of my creative work and my many years as an artist. To have that award juried by my peers makes it all the more significant. The funding has enabled me to dedicate more time to my artwork with greater financial flexibility. The residency awards I have received, I believe to be a direct result of the CWF. The Virginia Center for Creative Arts Residency Fellowship in August 2009 and my upcoming six-week Artist Residency at The Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, Ireland have and will allow more time for me to work in a focused and uninterrupted manner.

This acknowledgement is gratifying to me both as an artist and a person and that validation has encouraged me to push myself and my work in new directions and to also market that work more

actively. Receiving an award as prestigious and respected as the Creative Workforce Fellowship has given my work a credibility that will undoubtedly help create additional opportunities now and in the future.

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For more information about Nancy, please visit  
<http://nancymcentee.com/home.html>

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For more information about the Creative Workforce Fellowship or the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, please visit [www.cpacbiz.org](http://www.cpacbiz.org) or contact (216) 575-0331 or [info@cpacbiz.org](mailto:info@cpacbiz.org).

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