

Ben Gest  
517 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street Apt. 25  
New York, NY 10025  
312.316.7109 / info@bengest.com / www.bengest.com

# ben gest

## EDUCATION

2002 M.F.A., Photography, Columbia College Chicago  
1997 B.A., Visual Art, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2009 *Ben Gest*, NEXT Art Fair, Chicago, IL  
2008 *Ben Gest*, Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago, IL  
2007 *Ben Gest*, Light Work, Robert B. Menschel Media Center, Syracuse, NY  
2006 The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
2004 Stephen Daiter Contemporary Gallery, Chicago, IL  
2003 *12x12 New Artists/New Work*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
1999 *Portraits by Ben Gest*, Essex Fine Art Gallery, Montclair, NJ  
1999 *The Memorial Homes, Portraits of People*, Community Center, New Brunswick, NJ

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2010 *Silverstein Photography Annual*, Bruce Silverstein Gallery, New York, NY  
*Beyond Pixeltorialism: Digital Imaging in the 21st Century*, Robert T. Wright Gallery of Art, Grayslake, IL  
2008 *Made in Chicago: Photographs from the Bank of America LaSalle Collection*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL  
*Not Just Another Pretty Face*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*Photography Now*, Lubeznik Center For The Arts, Michigan City, IN  
*Recent Acquisitions*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO  
2007 *Exposed: Defining Moments In Photography from the MCA Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Relative Closeness*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL  
2006 *Family Album*, Center For Photography, Woodstock, NY  
*In Sight: Recent Additions to the Permanent Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL  
*Domestic Diary*, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL  
2005 *Group Portrait*, Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA  
*Digital Transitions: Selections From the Light Work Collection*, Syracuse, NY  
2004 *About Face: Photographic Portraits from the Collection*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Sympathetic - Manipulative Potential*, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI  
*Fact/Fiction - A National Exhibition*, Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, CT  
2003 *Not Just Another Pretty Face*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
2002 *The Human Presence*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*New Voices*, Suburban Fine Arts Gallery, Highland Park, IL  
*Weisman Award Show*, Hokin Gallery, Chicago, IL  
2001 *Home*, In-transit Gallery, Chicago, IL

## COLLECTIONS

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago  
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago  
Bank of America, LaSalle Bank Photography Collection, Chicago  
Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago  
Hallmark Fine Art and Photographic Collection, Kansas City  
Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth  
Light Work, Syracuse

## VISITING ARTIST LECTURES/PANELS

- 2009      Lecture, *In Conversation: Hamza Walker and Ben Gest*, NEXT Art Fair, Chicago, IL  
            Lecture, *Art Thing*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2008      Visiting Artist Lecture, The School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL
- 2007      Panelist, *Jeff Wall at The Art Institute of Chicago*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
            Lecture, *MCA as Muse - Ben Gest Speaks about George Segal*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
            Visiting Artist Lecture, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL  
            Visiting Artist Graduate Student Lecture/Critique, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
            Visiting Artist Lecture, Light Work, Syracuse, NY  
            Panelist, *The Commoditization of Culture: Marketing the Arts*, The School of the Art Institute Graduate Studies, Chicago, IL
- 2006      Visiting Artist Lecture, The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
            Panelist, *Explorations in Book Publishing*, (SPE) Society For Photographic Education, National Conference, 2006, Chicago, IL
- 2005      Lecture, *Artists Speak - Artists From the Permanent Collection*, LaSalle Bank, Chicago, IL  
            Lecture, *Artist Connect, Ben Gest on Alice Neel*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2004      Visiting Artist Lecture, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI  
            Lecture, *Conversations in Portraiture*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
            Panelist, *The Computer and Photography*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
            Visiting Artist Lecture, *Using Digital in the Studio*, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2003      Panelist, *Living as an Artist in Chicago*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL  
            Visiting Artist Lecture, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2006      Stuart and Iris Baum Award - Project Completion Grant, Columbia College Chicago  
2005      Light Work Artist-in-Residence  
2005      Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship Award  
2004      Stuart and Iris Baum Award - Project Completion Grant, Columbia College Chicago  
2003      Faculty Development Grant - Project Completion Grant, Columbia College Chicago  
2002      Jack Jaffe - Project Completion Grant, Columbia College Chicago  
2001      Albert P. Weisman Award - Highest Awarded Completion Grant

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2010 •Wolf, Sylvia. *The Digital Eye*. Seattle: Henry Art Gallery, Prestel Publishing, 2010.
- 2009 •Olu, Amani. "Standout Photography at the Chicago Fairs." *Whitewall, Contemporary Art and Lifestyle Magazine*, May 13, 2009.  
•Hogan, Bill. "Growing up with Koons." *Chicago Tribune*, April 19, 2009.
- 2008 •McLin, Nathaniel. "Radio Interview with Ben Gest." *The Art Museum of Chicago*, WHPK88.5 FM, December 9, 2008.  
•Scanlon, Suzanne. "The Complexity of Things: An Interview with Ben Gest." *Chicago Artists' News*, March, 2008.  
•Artner, Alan. "Ben Gest Exhibition Review." *Chicago Tribune*, June 2, 2008.  
•Sondak, Justin. "Ben Gest's Photographs of Daily Life Tread the Line Between Fiction and Reality." *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 1, 2008.  
•Adams, Rachel. "Art Photography, Ben Gest." *Flavorpill* 195, June 10 – 16, 2008.  
•Weinstein, Michael. "Tip of the Week." *New City*, May 29, 2008.  
•Finkel, Jori. "Conversation with Kavi Gupta." *Art + Auction*, June 18, 2008.
- 2007 •Stafford, Barbara Maria. *Echo Objects: the cognitive work of images*. University of Chicago Press, 2007. p. 175.  
•Gest, Ben. *Ben Gest Photographs*. Chicago: The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, 2007.  
•Soussloff, Catherine M. "Digital Portrait Photographs By Ben Gest," *Ben Gest Photographs*. Chicago: The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, 2007.  
•Frieser, Hannah. "Ben Gest." *Contact Sheet 141*. Syracuse: Light Work, May 2007.  
•Rushworth, Katherine. "Capturing Still Life, a Bit Askew." *The Post-Standard*, April 22, 2007.  
•Fasoldt, Al. "When Art and the Mind's Eye Meet Photography." *The Post-Standard*, April 8, 2007.
- 2006 •Artner, Alan. "Ben Gest's vision of upper-middle class angst." *Chicago Tribune*, December 7, 2006.  
•Nance, Kevin. "The Year of the Picture - Photos ruled art world, oddity in Architecture." *Chicago Sun Times*, December 24, 2006.  
•Zetouni, Sigalit. "A Portrait of Human Space." *Chicago Life - supplement of The New York Times*, December 2, 2006.  
•Tyson, Josh. "Ben Gest." *Time Out Chicago* 94, December 14 – 27, 2006.  
•Nance, Kevin. "Out of the Volvo, Into the Dark." Review of The Renaissance Society. *Chicago Sun Times*, November 14, 2006.  
•Sloat, Ben. "Group Portrait @ PRC." *Big Red and Shiny*, Issue 32, 2006.  
•Murray, Kathleen Wereszynski. "Family Imagery Snapped." *Poughkeepsie Journal*, June 23, 2006.  
•Tregay, Susan Webb. "Domestic Diaries Exhibition at the Rockford Art Museum." *The Rock River Times*, September, 2006.  
•Hales, Peter Bacon. *The Light Work Annual 2006*. Contact Sheet 137. Syracuse: Light Work, March, 2007.  
•Ehlers, Carol. *One of a Kind: Portraits from the LaSalle Bank Photography Collection*. Chicago: LaSalle Bank, 2006.
- 2005 •Chicago Art Critics Association. *Chicago Critics on Chicago Art: Corey Postiglione on Ben Gest*. Lecture and Essay, Oct. 1, 2005. <http://www.chicagoartcriticsassociation.org/eventsa.html>.
- 2004 •Travis, David. *Ben Gest's Pictures*. Chicago: Stephen Daiter Gallery, November 2004. [http://www.stephendaitergallery.com/dynamic/artist\\_bio.asp?ArtistID=1](http://www.stephendaitergallery.com/dynamic/artist_bio.asp?ArtistID=1)  
•Camper, Fred. "Parallel Lives." *Chicago Reader*, Dec. 3, 2004.  
•*6x6 Series: Home Life*. Chicago: Columbia College, 2004.  
•"Not Just Another Pretty Face." Interview with Ben Gest and Janis Kanter, *Mouthtomouth Magazine*, Winter 2004.
- 2004 •Weekly Dose of Architecture. [www.archidose.org/Apr03/042803a.html](http://www.archidose.org/Apr03/042803a.html)
- 2002 •Glatt, Cara. "HPAC Exhibits a Snapshot of Humanity." *Hyde Park Herald*, May 15, 2002.  
•Bey, Dawoud. *The Human Presence*. Chicago: Hyde Park Art Center, 2002.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2009 – Present Adjunct Faculty, International Center of Photography (ICP), New York, NY

2007 – 2008 Adjunct Faculty, The Art Institute of Chicago, IL

2000 – 2008 Adjunct Faculty, Columbia College Chicago, IL

### Art Seminars

•*Contemporary Thought*

•*Photography Seminar*

Seminars that examine and interrogate the multiple roles of contemporary photography within today's unique cultural moment. Students view original work, read contemporary criticism and engage in probing discussions and original writing. Students develop and shape a semester-long photography project based on personal concerns and values. Upon completion of these courses, students have the capacity to more confidently engage the work they make with the broader discourse of art.

### Digital Photography

•*Digital Acquisition and Photographic Output*

•*Digital Imaging I & II*

•*Advanced Retouching Techniques*

•*Digital for Interactive Multimedia*

Advanced digital courses teaching expert workflow and advanced printing techniques. Detailed instruction of digital capture, ink jet printers, service bureaus and Lambda printers as well as advanced Adobe Photoshop imaging. Emphasis on the differences between film and digital formats broadens students' understanding of digital media in its diverse manifestations through slide presentations, critical and theoretical readings, gallery visits and class discussions.

### Lecture and Traditional Wet Darkroom

•*Color Photography Lecture*

•*Foundations of B&W Photography*

•*Darkroom Workshop Color and B&W*

Courses that emphasize the basic aesthetic grammar of photography and a historical and critical context for looking at and the making of photographs. The introduction of aesthetics, techniques and theory of subtractive color as well as traditional black and white silver processes. Instruction on materials and processes for film development and print production of both color negative and silver gelatin wet processes.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MONOGRAPH BOOK PRODUCTION

### DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL IMAGING

•*Negative and print scanning*

•*Digital retouching*

•*Color preparation*

•*Soft proofing*

•*RGB and CMYK color conversions*

2007 Ben Gest Photographs by Ben Gest. The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, Chicago.  
Keeping Time in Sag Harbor by Stephen Longmire. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.

2006 At Home by William Frederking. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.  
Neon Boneyard, Las Vegas A-Z by Judy Natal. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.

2005 At City's Edge: Photographs of Chicago's Lakefront by Bob Thall. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.

2005 Private Places: Photographs of Chicago Gardens by Brad Temkin, Rod Slemmons. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.

Institutional: Photographs of Jails, Schools, And Other Chicago Buildings by Scott Fortino, Judith Russi Kirschner. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.

On City Streets-Chicago 1964-2004 by Gary Stochl. The Center For American Places

- 2004      Along The Divide, Photographs of the Dan Ryan Expressway by Jay Wolke. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.  
You're Not From Around Here by Mike Smith. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.
- 2003      Regarding Emma by Melissa Ann Pinney. The Center For American Places and Columbia College, Chicago.

## PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL RETOUCHING

### CLIENT LIST

- Motorola - *National Campaign For Print and Web*  
Combined computer generated imagery of screen graphics with photographs of high-end cellular phones.
- FEARnet.com - *Billboard*  
Created human-looking lifelike eyeballs from photographs of dead pig eyes. Digitally combined and added imagery to create disembodied eyes that looked frighteningly alive.
- Citadel Investment Group - *Yearly Report Publication*  
Combined multiple images to create the illusion of floating forms that looked like the Citadel logo.
- Leo Burnett - *Internal Branding Campaign for Print and Web*  
Created the illusion of pencils that appeared to write while being suspended in space.
- Serta Mattress - *Print Advertisement*  
Digitally created glowing neon signs and simulated the illusion of nighttime with atmospheric mystery.
- Cambridge Savings Bank - *Yearly Report Publication*  
Extensive montage of separate photographs of people and chairs into a single believable space.
- Nintendo - *Billboard Advertisement*  
Created unlikely shapes of a piano and a G clef formed by the wire extending from the controller.
- PeaPod - *Vinyl Car Wrap*  
Montage of single studio product shots into an arrangement of products stacked in a shopping cart.
- Trek Bicycle - *German Campaign for Print and Web*  
Combined human bones and bicycle parts into an imaginary single unit that reinforced the ergonomic design of the bicycle.