

Statement of D. B. Stovall

My earliest attempts at photography as a youngster gravitated towards the everyday: random storefronts and taverns, gas stations and garages. As my skills improved in my adolescence, my vision wandered into a combination of non-cohesive pictorialist and surrealist regions that in the end had no appeal. My education exposed me to the works of of Atget, Evans, and others and quickly steered me back to where I began. When I mastered the view camera at age 19 I found the almost perfect tool to complement the directness of my early images, and returned to a realism-based vision.

For the next 10 years or so I prodigiously worked at documenting what I know now to be the American Vernacular: things that seem mundane or commonplace to others yet define our existence. View cameras with color transparency were used, both for total image control and because they facilitate a kind of slower way of seeing that is a hallmark of my work.

After life changes forced a hiatus of many years, I have returned to making images again and am showing work both old and recent.