

# Alan Teller

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## Personal

Born and educated in New York City. Married, two children.

## Education

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Ph.D. program (never completed), Theoretical Anthropology and Fine Arts Photography. 1967-69.

Queens College, City University of New York. B.A., Cultural Anthropology, 1967.

## Professional Experience

Partner, Teller Madsen, Inc., Exhibit planners, designers and media producers. 2002-2015.

Executive Director, Adlai Stevenson Center on Democracy. Helped develop mission; organize programs; raise funds; design website; coordinate publicity, educational outreach and identity for an international center preserving the legacy of Adlai E. Stevenson II, 2008-2010.

Co-founder and President of Abrams, Teller & Madsen, Inc., planners and designers of exhibits for museums, universities, parks, government agencies and corporations. 1988-2002.

Co-founder and Partner, Chicago Photographic Print Fair. 1990-1994. Annual photography exposition that brought in dealers and galleries nationwide. Programs included collecting symposia and photography lectures, organized in collaboration with all of the major Chicago area cultural institutions.

Staff member, Uptown Center Hull House Association, Chicago. Fund-raising, public relations, and program development, 1981-82.

Ethnographic Photography Research Coordinator, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Responsible for content development and picture research for 'Maritime Hunters and Gatherers' permanent exhibit. 1978-80.

Co-Founder and Partner, The Collected Image, Chicago. Fine arts photography sales, picture research, appraisals of collections, developing of photographic exhibitions. 1976-present.

Project Designer and Coordinator for Artists in the Schools Program, Illinois Arts Council/ Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Title VII, Chicago and environs. Developed program and taught photography to both teachers and students in K-8 grades in recently desegregated school districts. 1975-78.

Co-Founder, Public Art Workshop Photography Center, Chicago. Fund-raising for program, exhibit development, co-designer and builder of facility. 1975-78.

Founder and Director, Inner City Photo Workshop, Chicago. Conceived of program, raised funds, designed and built facility, taught classes to both adults and high school age students at CAM Academy, a community organization. 1969-75.

## Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest. Art Department: Art Practicum: Galleries and Museums, Fall 2004. History Department: Public History: Museums/Exhibitions, Fall 2005, Spring 2007, Fall 2012. Upper level courses that combined theoretical understanding with practical applications. Student produced exhibits included Clouds of Fantasy, Pellets of Information exploring photography and anthropology through digital recreations of ethnographic images and archival presentation of vintage photographs.

Lecturer, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Adult Education Seminars: A Short History of Photography; The Photograph as Anthropological Document; Photography, Culture, and the Self. 1978-81.

Instructor, Photography faculty, School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Taught mid-level photography courses. Summer 1978.

Visiting Artist, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN. Taught Graduate and undergraduate courses in photography, including history of photography and a documentary workshop. 1976.

Instructor, Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, NY. Developed and taught a workshop on Alternative Approaches to Photographic Education. 1976.

Adjunct faculty, Photography Department, Columbia College, Chicago. Taught beginning and mid-level courses. 1974-76.

Director and Founder, Inner-City Photo Workshop, Chicago. Photography program for high-school drop-outs, community adults. 1970-75.

Substitute teacher, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago. Taught K-8 classes, in over 30 inner-city schools. 1969-1970.

### **Lectures and Workshops** (most recent highlighted)

Teller, Alan; Zbiral, Jerri; Aditya Arya. "Storytellers of Unmapped Journeys." Moderated by Madhu Jain. Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, Mumbai, February 13, 2016.

Teller, Alan; Zbiral, Jerri. "Following the Box: In Conversation with Alan Teller & Jerri Zbiral, Moderated by Susan Aurinko." The Field Museum, Chicago, June 24, 2015.

Teller, Alan; Zbiral, Jerri. "Following the Box: Exploring an Anonymous Archive of Photographs from India." Evanston Public Library, Sept. 6, 2014; American Center, U.S. Consulate, Kolkata, April 7, 2014; Fulbright Regional conference, Chennai March 10, 2014; Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, March 3, 2014.

Teller, Alan; Zbiral, Jerri. Featured speakers at India Institute of Management's Carpe Diem Festival, Calcutta. February 1, 2014.

Teller, Alan; Zbiral, Jerri. Photography workshop at the Modern High School for Girls, Calcutta. March 19, 2014.

Teller, Alan; Koos, Greg; Madsen, F. "Renewed: How a Small Museum Updates its Permanent Exhibits Using New Technologies." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Museums Conference, Chicago, IL, July 26, 2011.

Teller, Alan. "Can YouTube and Wikipedia be Models for Creating Exhibits?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums, Denver, CO, April 30, 2008.

Teller, Alan and Zashin, Elliott. "Siting A Jewish Museum - What Are The Most Important Factors?" Paper presented at the annual conference of American Jewish Museums, Chicago, IL, Jan. 28, 2008.

Teller, Alan. "Assessing Excellence in Exhibitions: Four Approaches." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums, Chicago, IL, May 14, 2007.

Between 1970 and 2014, delivered over 80 presentations on public history, photography and culture, photography and the community, photographic conservation, history of photography, the role of the museum in society, writing labels for museums, exhibit evaluation at universities, conferences, workshops, museums, in the United States, Canada and India, including:

"Culture, Individual and the Act of Making and Viewing Photographs." McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

"Photographs and Artifacts." Chicago Archaeological Society, Chicago IL.

“Edward Curtis, Will Soule and A.C. Vroman: Three Approaches to Photographing Native Americans.” Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN

“The Museum and the Community.” Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE.

“Teaching Dynamics: Some Skills Your MFA Program May Have Missed.” Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Society for Photographic Education, Asilomar, CA.

“Photography for the Deaf, Photography in the Classroom: A Report from Two Ongoing Programs.” Paper presented at the Ninth Visual Literacy Conference, Iowa City, IA.

“Integrated Photographs: Looking at Yourself.” Guest lecturer, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

“Photography, Education, and Visual Anthropology: An Experiment in Visual-Urban-Self-Ethnography.” Guest lecturer, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Other venues include: Chicago Historical Society; Chicago Jewish Historical Society; Rochester Institute of Technology; University of Illinois; Midwest Archivists; American Society of Picture Professionals; C. G. Jung Institute; Chicago Public Library; Loyola University; University of Wisconsin; Exhibit Builders Expo; University of Chicago.

### **Museum Exhibits**

Planning, conceptual development, research, label writing, conceptual design for exhibits, including: *On Common Ground*, State History Museum of Wisconsin; *An Uncommon Man*, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library; *Maxwell Street*, Chicago Historical Society; *Voyages*, Northern Indiana Center for History; *Zell Holocaust Memorial*, Spertus Museum of Jewish Studies; *Eyewitness to a Century*, Claude Pepper Museum; *The Mall of History and Bringing the World Home*, Lake County Discovery Museum; *Lincoln at Metamora*, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; *Motor City*, Detroit History Museum; *Hoop History*, DuSable Museum of African-American History; *Moon Rocks* and *The Dream of Chicago*, Chicago Tribune; several exhibits for John G. Shedd Aquarium; *Children’s Garden*, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago Park Dist.; *Toymaker 2000*, Museum of Science & Ind.; *Adlai Today* (web site & exhibit), McLean County Historical Society; Calumet Environmental Center, Chicago Dept. of Environment (planned); *Paths to Power*, Exelon Pavilions, Millennium Park, Chicago; DuSable Park, Chicago (planned); trail signs for Rollins & Middlefork Savannas, Ryerson Conservation Area, Lake County; *Adlai Stevenson*, Lake County. *With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition*, Library of Congress, Newberry Library installation; *Vivian Maier’s Chicago*, Chicago History Museum; *The Home Front During the Civil War*, Newberry Library & the Terra Museum of American Art; *The Stevenson Legacy*, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (planned.)

Designed and facilitated focus groups for Geneva Historical Society, Jarrot Mansion (Illinois Historical Preservation Agency,) Fox Valley Park District and others to assist in developing goals and objectives for museums and public parks.

### **Personal Exhibits**

*Photography Since the Millennium*, Carnegie Center for Art and History, New Albany, IN. Oct 2015 - January 2016

*Chicago Jazz: A Photographers View*, juried exhibition at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. University of Chicago, Chicago. September – October 2015.

*Following the Box*. Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, New Delhi, India. January, 2016. Original installation at Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, India. February, 2015. Curator and participating artist.

*The Photograph as Object* (Indian Constructions), Schneider Gallery, Chicago, IL, December, 2011. Chicago Photography Collective, Chicago. Participated in 10 group exhibits, Aug. 2010-Aug. 2013, including Performance; The Urban Landscape; Curious Encounters; Rural America; The Salon Show; Out in the Cold; Elsewhere; Go Do Good; The Food Show. Featured artist for The Environment (October 2010.)

*Adlai's Woods*, Evanston Public Library, Evanston IL, June 2011. Original installation at Independence Grove Visitor Center, Libertyville, IL, July 2010 – September 2010

*Fragments*, Pyro Gallery, Louisville, KY, June-July, 2009

*Ragdale 30: Time + Space*, Chicago Cultural Center, November 2006 – January 2007.

Sacred Light. One-person show at Garrett Theological Seminary, December 2005 – January 2006

Retrospective, One-person show at the Union League Club, Chicago, March 2004

Ragdale's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show, Chicago. A juried exhibition curated by artist Ed Paschke, showcasing the best visual art to come out of this artists' retreat, 2002

Vision/Form, Photographs by Francois Deschamps, Dennis Grady and Alan Teller, Stewart Gallery, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. 1986

Art Gallery, WFMT-Chicago Magazine, organized by the Art Rental and Sales Gallery of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1985

Approximately 20 group exhibitions (most juried.) 1971-1982.

Photographic Celebration, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1972.

#### **Publications** (refereed writings starred)

Teller, Alan and Zbiral, Jerri. Catalog for *Following the Box: An Artistic Exploration of an Archive of Anonymous Photographs from India*. Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata. 2015.

Teller, Alan, introduction to Family Run, A Photographic Document, by David Grempe. Chicago: 2054 Press, 2012. <http://www.2054press.com/introduction-by-alan-teller.html>

Photographic work represented in catalogues for The Food Show, The Salon Show, The Environment, Go Do Good. Chicago: Chicago Photography Collective, 2010 – 2011.

Teller, Alan, "Assessing Excellence in Exhibitions" in *The Exhibitionist*, the Journal of the National Assn. of Museum Exhibitors, American Assn. of Museums, November 2007. \*

Teller, Alan, review of *Observations: Essays on Documentary Photography*, by David Featherstone, *Exposure*, vol. 23, no. 4, Winter, 1985.\*

Teller, Alan "Maxwell Street" in *Chicago History*, vol. XII no.3, Fall 1983 (reproduced as poster) \*

Eight two-to-five page articles in the *Journal of American Photography* from 1983 to 1985, and ten one-to-two page articles in the *Chicago Sun-Times* during 1981 and 1982 on photographic history, techniques, conservation, theory, criticism, various artists. (available on request)

Teller, Alan. "Marriages of Convenience," review of *Exploring Society Photographically* by Howard Becker, *Afterimage*, vol.9 no.8, March 1982 \*

Teller, Alan. "Re-Examining the Democratic Art: Populist Approaches to Photographic Education." *Exposure*, vol.18, nos. 3 & 4, Fall & Winter, 1980. Reprinted in *Photo\*Letter*, vol.6, no.1, Summer, 1985.\*

Teller, Alan. "Photography in Chicago," In *Sweet Home Chicago*, Ed. T. Horowitz. Chicago: Chicago Journalism Press, 1977.

Alan Teller, Ralph Levinson, and Nancy Langsan, *Photography in the Classroom: A Workbook*. Chicago: Illinois Arts Council Publication, 1975. Available on-line: <http://k12photoed.org/?p=342>

Alan Teller. "Teaching and Organizing a Community Workshop." In *Photography: Source and Resource*. Eds. S. Lewis, D. Tate, J. McQuaid. College PA: Turnip Press, 1973. \*

Teller, Alan. "Urban-Self-Ethnography-Visual Anthropology" in *Afterimage*, vol.1, no.3, Sept.1972\*

## Grants

- United States State Department, to reinstall the *Following the Box* art exhibit at the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, Delhi. 2016.
- United States State Department, to develop a traveling exhibit on *Following the Box* that will tour all the U.S. Consulates in India. 2015.
- Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research award, for the *Following the Box* project exploring a group of anonymous photos made in India in 1945. A five-month residency, 2013-2014.
- Individual artist grant, Illinois Arts Council, for project comparing representational space in my photographs of women from Niger and portraits of clients of the Kovler Center for Victims of Torture, 2012.
- Grants from the Illinois Arts Council, Driehaus Foundation, MacLean-Fogg company, Stuart Family Foundation, Polk Brothers, Joyce Foundation, others to support *An Evening with Abe Lincoln, Aaron Copland and Adlai Stevenson* a concert at the Stevenson Center honoring the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. 2009.
- Crown Foundation to support the production of *In the Shadow of Memory*, a documentary film on the legacy of hatred. 2000.
- Numerous grants from Evanston Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, Driehaus Foundation, David Mamet and others to support *In the Shadow of Memory*, 1990-present.
- Illinois Arts Council/Illinois Humanities Council joint grant to support a 3 day symposium *Social Issues and the Arts*, exploring dance and photography and their societal context. 1982.
- Completed the Grantsmanship Center Training Program. 1982.
- Over 20 grants from the Illinois Arts Council, Allstate Foundation, Polaroid Corporation, University of Illinois, others, to support community photography programs. 1970-78.
- Illinois Arts Council, Project Completion Grant, Photography. 1978.

## Awards

- Winner of Good Design 2001 award, Chicago Athenaeum, for Lake County Museum exhibits.
- Winner, Cine Golden Eagle award for Best Documentary for *In the Shadow of Memory*. 1999.
- Bronze award, *In the Shadow of Memory*, Flagstaff International Film Festival. 1999.

## Other

- Served on review committee for Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence applications in the field of Study of India-Visual Arts. 2015.
- Producer of *Following the Box*, a 30-minute documentary film, Directed by Anirban Mahapatra, 2015. Featured selection New York Indian Film Festival 2015; Eye on India Festival Chicago 2015; North American Bengali Film Festival, Houston 2015, Chicago South Asian Film Festival, Chicago 2015. Addl. Screenings in Kolkata, Delhi, Kerala, Chicago.
- Subject of cover story and on-line article in Chicago's popular weekly The Reader:  
<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/jerri-zbiral-alan-teller-1940s-india-photographs/Content?oid=14721946>
- Author of the *Following the Box* blogs:  
<http://followingthebox.wordpress.com> (2016); <http://alanteller.wordpress.com> (2014); and the initial, 2011 blog <http://goo.gl/6vsxa>. Originally hosted through the VASA Project on-line international media studies workshop.
- Subject of numerous articles about *Following the Box* in English and Bengali press and social media:
- *City's History Through the Eyes of American Photographers*. Hindustan Times. Chhatrapati Dutta (2/16/14)
  - *A Box of Pictures & Lost Tales*. The Telegraph, Sebanti Sarkar (2/26/14)  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140226/jsp/calcutta/story\\_17954199.jsp#.U21Mk4UbtQ4](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140226/jsp/calcutta/story_17954199.jsp#.U21Mk4UbtQ4)

- *Couple on Clue Chase Track Photo Sites*. The Telegraph. Sebanti Sarkar (3/3/14)  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140303/jsp/calcutta/story\\_18038195.jsp#.U21MyYUbtQ4](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140303/jsp/calcutta/story_18038195.jsp#.U21MyYUbtQ4)
- *American Couple Follow the Trail of the Box to Bengal's Past*. Business Economics Magazine, Abhijit Ganguly (4/1/14)
- *US Couple Follows 'the Box', and Their Hearts, to Bengal*. Times of India, Krishnandi Bandyophyay (2/11/15)  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/US-couple-follows-the-box-and-their-hearts-to-Bengal/articleshow/46193376.cms>
- Bongrong. Fatima Merchant (2/16/15)  
<http://www.bongrong.com/buzz/following-the-box/>
- Matters of Art. Sarmisistha Maiti (2/23/15)  
<http://www.mattersofart.net/reviews-details.aspx?mpgid=5&pgid=5&rid=87>
- Shubham Samoyakee Magazine (Bangla). Subhamoy Dutta (3/15)
- *'Following the Box' is an Unusual and Refreshing Exhibition*. Hindustan Times. Chhatrapati Dutta (3/2/15)
- *Works Inspired by Box of Pictures*. The Telegraph, Sebanti Sarkar (3/2/15)  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150302/jsp/calcutta/story\\_6406.jsp#.VRVHIGb6nn8](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150302/jsp/calcutta/story_6406.jsp#.VRVHIGb6nn8)
- *Following the Box*. ABP. Pritika Datta (3/5/15)
- *Puzzles Inside a Box*. The Telegraph. Rita Datta (3/7/15)  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150307/jsp/opinion/story\\_7251.jsp#.VUGeLYUbtQ4](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150307/jsp/opinion/story_7251.jsp#.VUGeLYUbtQ4)
- *Out of the Box*. India Today Magazine. Malini Banerjee (3/9/15)
- *Stories Spill Out of a Box in Search of Lensman*. The Telegraph, Sebanti Sarkar (4/7/15)  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150407/jsp/calcutta/story\\_13138.jsp#.VSdHMmb6nn-](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150407/jsp/calcutta/story_13138.jsp#.VSdHMmb6nn-)
- *An Arty Adventure*. The Indian Express. Dipanita Nath (4/22/15)  
<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/an-arty-adventure/>
- "Camera Cholche" Bengali State Television interview. 3/3/15
- *Trail of Photos Offers a Passage to India*. Gulf News. Anuradha Sengupta. May 13, 2015  
<http://gulfnews.com/culture/heritage/trail-of-photos-offers-a-passage-to-india-1.1510322>.
- *American Couple Chases Shoebox to Unravel Bengal Mystery*. India Tribune. J.V. Lakshmana Rao. June 19, 2015.
- *Horrors of the Holocaust*. The Telegraph. Sebanti Sarkar. May 31, 2015.  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150531/jsp/calcutta/story\\_23074.jsp#.VaB\\_lkWE7Wi](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150531/jsp/calcutta/story_23074.jsp#.VaB_lkWE7Wi)
- *Following the Box exhibit review*. DESH Magazine, ABP Pub. (Bengali.) June, 2015.

On-line Interview in conjunction with the Evanston Public Library installation of *Adlai's Woods*:  
<http://evanstonpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/2011/06/25/an-interview-with-alan-teller/>

Interviewed for an article about the Chicago Photography Collective:  
<http://sixtyinchesfromcenter.org/archive/?p=13192>

Organized the *Grand Jollification* at the Stevenson Center, a panel discussion on the American presidential nominating system with Senators Adlai Stevenson III, Richard Lugar, George McGovern; Reverend Jesse Jackson; Representative John Anderson; Alderman Ed Burke; historian Richard Norton Smith; journalist Bill Kurtis. Covered by C-SPAN and by David Broder of the Washington Post. 2008.

Advisory Council, "The Virtual Burnham Initiative as a Collaborative Project of, by, and for the Community." EDUCAUSE Midwest Regional Conference, 2008.

Juror, Cine Golden Eagle Awards for contemporary film production, 2010-2012.

Chorus member, University of Chicago Gilbert & Sullivan Society productions of *Iolanthe*, 2008; *Ruddigore*, 2009, *Sorcerer*, 2011, *Pirates of Penzance*, 2013.

Chorus member, Savoyaires productions of H.M.S. Pinafore, 2003; Thespis, 2004 (also in role of Bacchus); Sorcerer, 2005; Iolanthe, 2006; Gondoliers, 2010; Trial by Jury, The Zoo 2011, Mikado 2013, The Grand Duke 2014. Board member of this community Gilbert & Sullivan theater, 2004-2007.

Director and Producer of Eyewitness to a Century, biographical film on Senator Claude Pepper on the occasion of the unveiling of a commemorative postage stamp. Copies presented to every member of Congress, 2002.

Chair, Evanston Arts Council Arts-in-Education committee. 1997-2002.

Featured presentation, *In the Shadow of Memory*, Jerusalem Film Festival, Israel, 2000.

Official selection, *In the Shadow of Memory*, Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Czech Republic, 1999.

Interviewed on NPR's Morning Edition by Bob Edwards and by Studs Terkel at WFMT, Chicago for *In the Shadow of Memory*, 1995

Co-Producer and writer, *In the Shadow of Memory: The Legacy of Lidice*, a one-hour documentary film.

First to appraise the Zupruder film footage of the Kennedy assassination, 1992.

Served as Expert Witness for Federal Bureau of Investigation, for analysis of Edward S. Curtis photographs taken during the 1899 Harriman Expedition, 1985.

Curator, *Seein' the Blues* exhibit, Chicago Blues Festival and tour throughout Czech Republic, 1984.

Semi-Finalist, Nelson Algren Prize, Chicago Magazine for short-story *Bernie*, 1982.

Chair, Midwest Region, Society for Photographic Education, 1977.

Co-designed seminar *Humanistic Teaching of the Visual Arts*, featuring Keynote speaker Rudolph Arnheim, Center for Photographic Studies, Louisville, KY. 1977.

Subject of numerous articles about community photo programs in: Time/Life Photography Annual; Popular Photography magazine; New Art Examiner; Chicago Daily Defender; Chicago Daily News; Chicago Tribune; Chicago Today; Behavior Today. 1972-79.

Organized photographic exhibitions at National Art Therapy Association conference, Louisville, KY; International Congress on Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Chicago; Exchange National Bank of Chicago; Illinois Arts Council Traveling Exhibition program; Chicago Public Library; others. 1972-77.

### **Professional Memberships**

Maxwell Street Foundation, Board Member 2007-2015; Vice-President 2011-2015

American Association of Museums, National Association of Museum Exhibitors. 1990-present

National Writer's Union, Chicago Local 12, 1982-1992.

Board of Directors, Uptown Historical Society, 1985-1989.

Society for Photographic Education, 1968-1985.

### **Websites**

[www.alanteller.com](http://www.alanteller.com) • [www.tmexhibits.com](http://www.tmexhibits.com) • [www.thecollectedimage.com](http://www.thecollectedimage.com)  
[www.shadowofmemory.com](http://www.shadowofmemory.com) • [www.followingthebox.com](http://www.followingthebox.com)

**References** Available upon request.