

Michael J. Bracey

Photographer



Michael J. Bracey is an award-winning Chicago-based photographer that has lectured and exhibited extensively throughout the United States and abroad. His work has appeared in *The Journey: The Next 100 Years*, a book created and published by the Chicago Alliance of African-American Photographers (CAAAP) in conjunction with Roosevelt University Press, the Chicago History Museum, and the Chicago Tribune newspaper. His other books are *Urban Waters*, *People-Places-Peru*, *The Black Christ Festival of Portobelo (Panama)*, *Ten Days in Morocco*, *It's All about the Hats*, and *Ten Days in Guatemala*.

2Leaf Press published *Rivers of Women*, *The Play* by Shirley Bradley LeFlore, featuring photographs by Bracey in 2013. Bracey, who initiated the concept of *Rivers of Women*, matches his images with LeFlore's poetry, adding a visual dimension that succeeds in endowing every poem with an added sense of depth and emotionality through his unique mode of multilayered conceptualization. The book was produced to coincide with play's premiere at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis.

Bracey's accomplishments include the CAAAP Portfolio of the Year award (2001), a Chicago Arts Assistant Council grant (2004), a Hutchinson Arts Association Council grant (2004), and the Illinois Arts Council Fellowship (2003) for Africans Within the Americas, a ten-year project of travel to twelve different countries documenting commonalities among people of African descent, which resulted in a traveling exhibition and a book. Bracey holds a B.A. from Webster University, St. Louis, and a M.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts from Columbia College Chicago. He is a founding member of CAAAP (founded 1999), where he has served as Vice President, President and Treasurer.

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