

Lynn Johnson

Photographer
917/ 940/ 1911
ljohnphoto@aol.com

Work

Staff Photographer/*Pittsburgh Press*
1975/82

Men's Lives Documentary Project
1982/83

Freelance photographer
1983/today
Newsweek
Smithsonian
Life Magazine
Sports Illustrated
National Geographic
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Alcoa Foundation
Heinz Foundation

Awards

Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award
for Coverage of the Disadvantaged
World Press Awards
Pictures of the Year Awards:
National Geographic 2002
Grant:Soros Documentary Photography 2006
Exhibit: Visa pour l'image-Perpignan 2007
Communication Arts Photo Annual 2009

Books

Men's Lives 1984
Power to Heal 1990
Material World 1994
Women in the Material World 1996
Women Photographers at National Geographic 2000
Nature's Medicines: Plants that Heal 2000
John Muir: Nature's Visionary 2001
Edward Curtis: Coming to Light 2002
Through the Lens: National Geographic
Greatest Photographs 2003

Education

B.A.
Photographic Illustration/Photojournalism
Rochester Institute of Technology 1975
M.A./Knight Fellow
School of Visual Communications
Ohio University
2004

Photojournalist Lynn Johnson is known for her intense and sensitive work. Dividing her time between assignments for *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, and various foundations, Johnson has traveled from Siberia to Zambia and photographed celebrities including Tiger Woods, Mikhail Barishnikov, Stevie Wonder, Tony Hawk, Mister Rogers and the entire Supreme Court. In her physically demanding shooting style, Johnson uses the technical skills acquired during a decade as an EMT in hazardous rescue work. With her Leicas, she has climbed the radio antenna atop Chicago's Hancock Tower and dangled from helicopters in Antarctica. Yet her favorite assignments have been emotionally demanding stories about ordinary people; a family struggling with AIDS (*Life*), the death of an African-American coach in Amish country (*Sports Illustrated*), native Hawaiians' mission to protect traditional ways (*National Geographic*), the threat of zoonotic diseases that move around the world. (*National Geographic*).

Her vision is subtle. She invites the viewer to find the meaning in the frame. Her shooting style is equally low key. At 5'1" she strives to become virtually invisible, allowing her subjects to reveal themselves to the camera. The photographs, based on fairness and compassion are an attempt to honor and share the stories of others. After 30 years of practicing photography, she sees her personal work moving from that of observer to advocate.

As a Knight Fellow in the School of Visual Communications at Ohio University, Johnson completed a rigorous year-long program that included her masters thesis, *Hate Kills*, a book and traveling exhibit space about the impact of hate crimes on American society. It's purpose is to promote dialogue, encouraging a change in attitudes and perceptions of intolerance and prejudice. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the fellowship, was the teaching component that allowed her to share her passion and commitment with other students in the Visual Studies program, helping to developing the talents and ethics of a new generation of photographers.

Johnson herself earned a B.A. in Photographic Illustration and Photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1975. After graduating, she was a Staff Photographer at *The Pittsburgh Press* for seven years before beginning her freelance career as a contract photographer for Black Star. She is currently a member of the National Geographic Image Collection.