

Eleni “Beeba” Christopoulos

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Curriculum Vitae

Insightful photography professional with extensive experience in digital and traditional photography, dedicated to fostering artistic excellence and creativity in photography education.

Expertise in digital, large format, and alternative process photography with proven ability to teach undergraduate photography courses. Skilled in curriculum development and modernization, having revitalized multiple photography programs with contemporary photographic theory and critical discourse. Well-versed in documentary photography and cultural preservation, with sophisticated skills in art direction, studio lighting, and photographic illustration. Committed to mentoring emerging photographers, fostering cross-disciplinary projects, and guiding students to top placements in competitive exhibitions and juried shows.

Education

Master of Fine Arts, Concentration in Photography

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Bachelor of Fine Arts with Specialization in Professional Photographic Illustration

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

Areas of Expertise

- Digital Photography
- Large & Medium Format Photography
- Alternative Process Photography
- Studio Lighting Techniques
- Traditional Film Development
- Photography Post-Production
- Photography Equipment Maintenance
- Experimental Photography Methods
- Curriculum Development
- Art History Instruction
- Exhibition Curation
- Photographic Illustration

Teaching Experience

2016 – Present. Photography Instructor, St. Petersburg College, Clearwater, FL

Deliver specialized instruction in Digital Photography, encompassing Basic, Intermediate and Large Format, as well as Alternative Processes and Themes in Photography. Foster an in-depth understanding of Art and Design among students through innovative coursework. Guide and mentor students in Portfolio Development, facilitating the creation of professional portfolios capturing student’s unique artistic vision.

- Revitalized outdated course content, introducing modern techniques and perspectives that enhanced student engagement and learning outcomes.
- Mentored students to achieve at least one of the top 3 placements in the Art Department’s juried show annually, demonstrating a commitment to excellence and fostering creative growth.
- Mentored students toward receiving the Juror Purchase award in 5 of the past 6 annual juried shows.

2020 – 2023. Instructor, Miami International University of Art & Design, Miami, FL

Directed a full spectrum of online courses focusing on Marketing for Photographers, Art Direction and Advertising, and Photographic Design. Cultivated students' mastery of industry-relevant skills and techniques, ensuring a hands-on learning experience that simulated real-world challenges. Encouraged creative thinking and individual expression, emphasizing the importance of a unique artistic vision in the competitive fields of marketing and photography.

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- Empowered and guided students to create impactful senior projects and professional portfolios, refining both conceptual ideas and practical skills.
- Ensured students' readiness for industry demands by aligning course content with current marketing and advertising trends.

2019 – 2023. Photography Instructor, Art Institute of Tampa, Tampa, FL

Developed and delivered curriculum across multiple disciplines including Senior Project, Photo Essay, Time-Based Media, Studio Lighting, E-Portfolio, Art Direction, and Advertising. Facilitated students' creation of senior projects and professional e-portfolios to support their career readiness. Mentored students individually, fostering unique visions and personal growth within chosen fields.

- Redesigned course syllabus for Advertising and Art Direction, incorporating up-to-date industry practices and technological advances.
- Introduced special topics course in Photographic Illustration, adding depth to the institute's creative curriculum.
- Elevated student engagement and academic performance through creation of interactive learning experiences.

Additional Experience

2001-2008. Instructor, Cultural Center of Haidari, Greece

Instructed diverse learners in basic and intermediate analog photography techniques. Developed and facilitated interactive lessons at the Cultural Center of Haidari, Greece, tailoring teaching approaches to accommodate varying skill levels.

2001-2004. Instructor, University of Laverne Athens, Greece

Instituted the photography department from the ground up by crafting foundational courses and building a comprehensive curriculum including basic, intermediate and advanced courses.

- Pioneered and instructed the special topics course, "Women and Art," addressing contemporary issues, which became a cornerstone of the art program and a popular General Education elective.

2002. Creative Director, Synthesis, Inc

- Oversaw branding and visual content for a varied musical performances and projects integrating classical and contemporary elements in music and theatre.
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to conceptualize and execute innovative artistic projects.

2001. Creative Director, :demo Magazine, Athens

- Directed and coordinated all artistic aspects for the publication, ensuring cohesive visual storytelling
- Scouted photography locations; recruited and managed team of photographers, illustrators and designers.

1999-2001. Writer/critic, Photographos Magazine, Athens, Greece

- Attended and reviewed high-profile events such as the Venice Biennale.

1996-1998. Instructor, Miami-Dade Community College

Selected Projects & Exhibitions

2016-2019. *Dancing as One: The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs* (Documentary).

Directed a cultural documentary, highlighting the traditions and heritage of the Greek community. Collaborated with stakeholders to ensure the documentary's authenticity and cultural representation.

- Obtained competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Humanities Council, underscoring the documentary's cultural importance and creative value.
- Earned international acclaim through selections at renowned events, including the Dunedin International Film Festival, Docs Without Borders, and as a Finalist at the London Greek Film Festival, culminating in film's premiere on March 14, 2019.

2015. *Themelia/Foundations*, Tarpon Springs, FL.

Conceptualized and developed "Themelia/Foundations," a portrait series honoring the contributions of the older Greek community in Tarpon Springs and community's role in preserving the city's cultural heritage.

- Orchestrated an exhibition of the photographic series at the City of Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, amplifying cultural awareness and community pride.

2013. *The Horio*, Tarpon Springs, FL

Captured and preserved the cultural heritage of the Greek community in Tarpon Springs through an in-depth visual documentation of community traditions and way of life.

- Organized a compelling photographic exhibition at the City of Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, leveraging National Endowment for the Arts funding to celebrate and preserve the community's cultural heritage.

2006. *WO[+]man=?*, Athens, Greece

Played a pivotal role in a group exhibition with a theme focusing on exploring gender at the 5th Annual Festival of Art for Human Rights in Athens, Greece, amplifying dialogue on social and cultural issues.

2004. *Life in Ilia, or Anywhere*, Athens, Greece

Conceptualized and produced a photographic documentary highlighting the people and historical architecture of Ilia, Greece, emphasizing the region's cultural heritage.

- Showcased the documentary at prominent cultural centers in Athens and Pyrgos, attaining recognition for artistic and historical significance.

2003 and earlier

- ***Trash Art, Athens, Greece.*** Invited participant. Selected by the city of Athens to participate in an annual 3-day festival, collaborating with the city's waste management serves to create artwork onsite using discarded materials.
- ***Backstage, Athens, Greece.*** Solo exhibition at Diavasi Cultural Center.
- ***Inside, Mykonos, Greece.*** Solo exhibition.
- ***Ready, Wrapped and Self-Sealed, Melbourne, Australia.*** Group exhibition member.

Grants & Awards

2016. National Endowment for the Arts Grant. *Dancing as One: The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs*

2018. Florida Humanities Council Grant. *Dancing as One: The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs*

2020. Dunedin International Film Festival. Selected for Screening. *Dancing as One: The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs*

2020. Doctors without Borders. Selected for Screening. *Dancing as One: The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs*

2020. London Greek Film Festival. Finalist. *Dancing as One: The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs*

2015. National Endowment for the Arts Grant. *Themelia/Foundations*

2013 National Endowment for the Arts Grant. *The Horio*

Public Presentations

2017. *The Way We Worked*, Tarpon Springs Cultural Center

Contributed to a panel discussion for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibition, facilitating insightful dialogue on cultural and historical topics.

- Designed and delivered curated content in collaboration with the Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, fostering community engagement and enhancing awareness of local work heritage.
- Curated and organized a photography exhibit showcasing student work, aligning with the themes of the traveling exhibition to create a cohesive educational experience.

2016. Hellenic Genealogy Conference, Tarpon Springs Cultural Center

Collaborated with program organizers, including Tarpon Springs Cultural Services & Public Library, University of Florida's Center for Greek Studies and Center for European Studies, and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, to deliver a compelling presentation of the *Horio Project* to engage scholars from across Florida and the U.S. in advancing the understanding of Greek genealogy and immigration history and to foster broader academic engagement and cultural appreciation.

----. "Promote, Preserve, Perpetuate," Florida Humanities Council.

Invited to deliver keynote presentation at the Florida Humanities Council conference in Tarpon Springs, FL showcasing recent photographic projects as powerful tools for fostering cultural awareness and preservation.

- Advocated for the significance of cultural heritage through photography, highlighting role in deepening understanding and safeguarding traditions across diverse communities.

Community Engagement

2023 . Scholastic Art Competition Judge for Pinellas County Schools.

2023 . *Creativity and Responsibility-Navigating the AI World Workshop* Presenter for Pinellas County schools Teachers.

2023-Present. City Of Tarpon Springs Public Art Committee, Acting Chair.

Direct the planning and implementation of public art initiatives, collaborating with local artists, committee members, and stakeholders to enhance community spaces and reflect cultural values.

2020-Present. Greektown Heritage Preservation Association, Co-Founder and Vice President.

Partner with city officials to safeguard and promote the Greek community's heritage, while leading strategic planning and initiatives to preserve cultural landmarks and traditions.

2011-Present. Epiphany Committee, St Nicholas Cathedral, Volunteer Member/ Chair (2023).

Play a key role in planning and coordination of St. Nicholas Cathedral's Epiphany event, the city's largest event attracting 25K+ attendees annually. Documented event since 2010. In 2023, served as overall committee chair.

Languages

English (Fluent)

Greek (Fluent)