

John D. Elliott

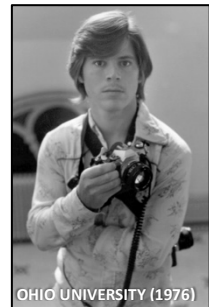
FINE ARTS PHOTOGRAPHER

Biographical Summary



John Elliott was born in Spring Valley, New York and for his first dozen years lived in Manhattan, after which he moved with his family to Coral Gables, Florida. It was here as a teenager that he fell in love with photography, one of the subjects taught as part of an industrial drafting and typography course in middle school. His first professional photojournalistic efforts were published in a South Florida newspaper when he was 15.

John matriculated at Ohio University, from which he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and double minors in Spanish and International Studies. There, he studied Art History and Photography under [Arnold Gassan](#) to learn the Zone System, the “art of seeing,” and other fundamentals. He subsequently attended Harvard University to study Arabic in 1978 and the U.S. Foreign Service Institute in 2011 and 2014 for Portuguese, Arabic, and diplomatic studies.



While in both high school and college, during his summer and other holiday breaks, John traveled throughout Central America, first as a volunteer health worker for the Amigos de Las America Program, and then as a magazine photographer and bilingual writer for *Revista GeoMundo*. After receiving his university studies, he taught English in Miami and Venezuela, was a portrait photographer for Bryn-Alan Studios in Tampa and Miami, and then worked for two years as an audio-visual specialist for an insurance company in Miami. In 1984, he taught photography and video production at the Art Institute of Atlanta, then worked for ten years as a corporate communications manager near Atlanta, with concurrent service for four years as a U.S. Army Reserves photographer.

While employed as the media production manager for a Fortune-500 corporation, he became the first American to produce and direct a corporate video production in HDTV, which debuted at the 1990 National Association of Broadcasters international electronics trade show. In 1993, he founded Millennium Communications, Inc., an advertising, video production, and marketing partnership agency in the Atlanta area, and he was the creative director and senior partner there for 18 years.

Deeply affected by a devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, John founded [AidWEST Humanitarian Missions](#) (www.aidwest.org) and served on four tours as medic and team leader for nursing and construction teams composed of volunteers he gathered from throughout the USA.



In early 2011 he was selected to be an officer in the U.S. Foreign Service and, after five months of training, received a Congressional appointment to be a Vice Consul in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil through 2013. From 2014-16, he served as Press Attaché in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, before returning to Washington, D.C. to work for the State Department in five senior diplomatic assignments through 2021.

John has shared his vision through scores of solo and group exhibitions on four continents since 1973, and, more recently, through a variety of online galleries. *The Human Pulse* series debuted in 2007 at Callanwolde Fine Arts Gallery in Atlanta. A

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seminal solo exhibition of 72 prints was held in 2013, at the [Academia Brasileira das Letras](#) in Rio de Janeiro. His photos have recently been exhibited at Marion Cultural Alliance's Brick City Gallery (FL) and numerous on-line sites for fine arts photography. In 2022, John founded the [Ocala Photography Group](#), with more than 60 members enjoying monthly presentations, photo walks, and special events scheduled via [www.meetup.com](#). His recent photographic projects have covered Cuba (2021) and Brazil (2023).



John and his family currently reside in central Florida, a base for his re-energized photographic exhibitions, humanitarian, and volunteer endeavors, including mentoring youth with the Marion County (FL) Public School System, and adults via [American Corporate Partners](#).

Sources of artistic influence: *“When I was a child, I discovered a book in my father’s library, The Family of Man, an edition by renowned photographer Edward Steichen published in 1955 to coincide with a seminal Museum of Modern Art exhibition of photography and prose. Only decades later did I recollect perusing it with interest as a child, and the memories of many images remained vivid. Recently musing upon the genesis of one of my series, The Human Pulse, I began to realize how influential this book was on my photographic vision. I strive to paint a multi-faceted spectrum of global humanity – joy to suffering, spontaneity to reflection. The influential memories of the book’s photographs were but a starting point for my series. I have likewise been impacted by photographs of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Sebastião Salgado, Diane Arbus, and Lee Friedlander, the existentialist film, ‘Wings of Desire,’ and the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch.”*



- Two of John’s five books are now available in electronic format:
The Human Pulse (2022): www.thehumanpulse.com/the-human-pulse-book
(hard-cover edition available for sale at the Brick City Art Gallery in Ocala)
Walls/Spaces (2016): www.thehumanpulse.com/walls-spaces-2016-edition
- Photo galleries and blog stories:
www.thehumanpulse.com
www.behance.net/diplomat
- Recent news article: [Retired Diplomat Continues Photographic Exploration](#)
- Instagram: [@thehumanpulse_photo](#)
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/al-om