

JOHN SHERMAN: CURRICULUM VITAE

516 Central Court South, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Phone 317.923.6775

Cell 317.459.5074

john@mesaverdepress.com

www.mesaverdepress.com

john@shermanandcompany.net

www.shermanandcompany.net

ARTIST STATEMENT

John Sherman's creative writing and photography reflect his intent not only to entertain and educate, but to provoke others to think and to act. While he draws upon his rich, varied experiences, including years spent living in Washington, DC, Santa Fe, NM, and five African countries, his artistic work is grounded in his upbringing on a small farm in Indiana.

FORMAL EDUCATION

M.A. Studies, African Studies (Literature), University of Ghana

B.A., Journalism and English, Indiana University

Certificate, French Studies, Alliance Francaise, Kinshasa, Zaire

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Owner, Sherman & Co. Public Relations, Indianapolis, 1991-

Writer, editor, publisher, & photographer, Mesa Verde Press, Santa Fe and Indianapolis, 1981-

Manager, Public Relations, Corporate Communications, Marketing, Resort Condominiums

International (RCI), Indianapolis, 1986-1991

Managing Editor, *Indiana Business Magazine*, Indianapolis, 1985-86, and Editor, *El Palacio*

Magazine, Santa Fe, 1984-85

Director of Public Relations and Development, St. Catherine Indian School, Santa Fe, 1978-83

Instructor (Language Arts, Journalism): Santa Fe Community College, 1984-85; St. Catherine

Indian School, 1978-83; Federal City College, Washington, DC, 1975; American Language

Institute, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 1975; Zaire-American Language Institute,

Kinshasa, Zaire, 1974; Ecole de Langue Anglaise, Kinshasa, Zaire, 1973-74; West Side High

School, Gary, 1969-70; Mlanje Day Secondary School, Mlanje, Malawi (Peace Corps Volunteer),

1967-68; Ascension High School, Eleme, Nigeria/Biafra (Peace Corps Volunteer), 1966-67

U.S. Peace Corps, African Programs Coordinator, Washington, DC, 1975-77; Administrator, Peace

Corps/Ghana, Accra, 1971-73; Placement Officer, Washington, DC, 1970-71

National Director, American Field Service/Ghana, Accra, 1971-73

Member, Medical/Feeding Team, International Committee of the Red Cross, War Zone, Nigeria/

Biafra Civil War, 1968-69

LISTINGS

Listings (current and/or previous editions): *Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award*, *Marquis' Who's Who in America*, *Marquis' Who's Who in Business and Finance*, *Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers*, *Index of American Periodical Verse*, *Indiana Authors and Their Works*, Artist Directories of the Arts Council of Indianapolis and Indianapolis Downtown Artists and Dealers Association (IDADA), *Heartland Arts Fund Performing Artists Catalog*, *Directory of New Mexico Historians*, *Indiana Sourcebook*

MEMBERSHIPS/NONPROFIT AND ACADEMIC BOARDS

Writers/Arts Groups: Authors Guild, PEN America, ASCAP, Writers' Center of Indiana; former member,

Bloomington Free Verse Poets **Board of Directors:** 1991-2015: Brick Street Poetry, Child Advocates, Inc., Indianapolis Press Club, Indy Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Indianapolis Public Relations Society (President), Indiana State Museum Society/Foundation (President), International Center of Indianapolis. 1980-1985: Santa Fe Historical Society, Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association, Santa Fe Press Club **Advisory Boards:** Secretary, Igbo Studies Association; Goldline & Jacobs Publishers, U.S. and Nigeria; establishment of university press for Gregory University, Uturu, Nigeria

POETRY

POETRY BOOKS & CDs: *Home*, spoken-word CD, 2016; *Shades*, spoken-word CD, with Chi Sherman and musician Gabriel Harley (Audio Affairs), 2015 (sampler CD produced, 2014); *Marjorie Main: Rural Documentary Poetry* (Mesa Verde Press), 1999; *America Is A Negro Child: Race Poems* (Mesa Verde Press), 1981; *It Give (sic) You Something To Think About: Collected Poems*, 1977

MAGAZINES (print/online): More than 90 appearances, including *So It Goes*, *The Journal of Reading*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *Branches*, *Flying Island*, *Indiana Writes*, *Xavier Review*, *Texas Quarterly*, *Berkeley Review*
ANTHOLOGIES: More than 20 poems in *Writing About Cancer* (Simon Cancer Center), *And Know This Place* (Indiana Historical Society), *When A Brother or Sister Dies* (Praeger), *Dying: A Book of Comfort* (Doubleday), *Celebrating Seventy* and *A Linen Weave of Bloomington Poets* (Wind Press), *Touched by Adoption* (Green River Press), *Words & Other Wild Things* and *Cowboys & Cocktails: Poetry from the True Grit Saloon* (Brick Street Poetry)

SOLO READINGS: 2002-2018: inaugural Featured Poet, Poetry at the Yard 2018-2019 season, Coal Yard Coffee, Indianapolis; Featured Poet, Poetry at the Yard, Coal Yard Coffee, Indianapolis; National Poetry Month celebration, College Avenue library, Indianapolis; St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Carmel; Brick Street Poetry Series, Zionsville; Kick-Off Celebration, final stage of Indianapolis Cultural Trail; Heritage Festival, Jay County Historical Society, Portland; Art & Space Project of Zionsville Arts Initiative; "War Today: Marching into Social Consciousness"; Café Li'Ture poetry series; inaugural artist, Purdue Educational Center, Tipton; Central Indiana Farm Festival, Greenfield Public Library. 1978-1985: Xavier University and Xavier Prep School, New Orleans; Miami-Dade Community College; Brevard Community College, Brevard, FL; Santa Fe and Taos, NM, various venues **GROUP READINGS:** 1990s-2019: Barton Rees Pogue Festival, featuring my poem about hearing Pogue read his poetry; Facebook Live interview/reading, "Shades," WFYI-TV, with Chi Sherman; Frederick Douglass Papers Symposium; "Poetry in Free Motion" readings (quilters/poets collaborations), Greenwood, Beech Grove, Martinsville, Indianapolis Artsgarden, other venues extending into 2019; "Poetry at the Point," St. Louis Poetry Center; Indianapolis Cultural Trail grand opening; "Food for Thought," with Chi Sherman and Gabriel Harley, Indiana Humanities; Brick Street Gallery Walk, pairing poets & sculptors, Zionsville; Coal Yard, Indianapolis; Garfield Eatery, Indianapolis; "Crazy Quilt," poems set to music, performed by singers and poets, Bloomington; "Shades: Writings on Race, Culture, and Gender," with Chi Sherman; Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship writers, Indianapolis Art Center; Poetry in the Gallery, Indianapolis Museum of Art and Writers' Center. 1978-1985: Santa Fe and Taos, NM, multiple venues, both solo and group, including St. John's College and Santa Fe Public Library

POETRY AWARDS AND HONORS: Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites grants, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, resulting in Poetry for the People and by the People workshops, Mounds State Park, Anderson, Indiana (off-site workshops in Anderson, as well); "Poetry in Free Motion," poems written to accompany quilts, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018; *Home*, New Members New Books display, PEN America, New York, 2017; Individual Artist Program grants, Indiana Arts Commission, 2015, 2011 and 2000; "Moving Forward" competition, poem placed on Indianapolis Cultural Trail bus stop, 2011; Poetry in the Gallery special honorable mention from Judge/Poet Mari Evans, 2002, and first prize, 1999; first prize, Indianapolis-Marion County Library Literary Competition, 1989; "Poetry on the Buses," Indianapolis METRO, 1989; two-person reading with poet Gerald Stern, Santa Fe, 1983; Poet-in-Residence, Brevard Community College, Brevard, FL, 1982; Finalist, Walt Whitman Award, Academy of American Poets, New York, for *Marjorie Main* manuscript, 1981; Florida Endowment for the Humanities grant for poetry reading, Miami-Dade Community College, 1981

POETRY APPEARANCES: ONLINE: Guest artist, "On the Couch with Michelle Gussow," 2019; Subject of TMH Radio podcast interview, 2019; subject of *Hoosier Authors* online blog, 2018; subject of podcast interview, TMH Radio, 2018

FICTION AND NONFICTION

AWARDS AND HONORS: Efroymsen Family Fund grant for travel, conference expenses for Igbo Studies Association conference, Owerri, Nigeria, June 2017; Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship 2005-2006 (resulting in writing libretto for opera *Biafra*); Individual Artist Program grants in 2002 and 2004; essay, "The Opportunity to be Silent," celebrating 2011-2012 Creative Renewal Arts Fellows; artist residencies, Mary Anderson Center for the Arts, St. Francis, IN, 2004 and 2006; *War Stories* adopted as college textbook, Northwestern University, U.S., and Pan-African University and Gregory University, Nigeria (other adoptions pending); New Mexico Governor's Award of Honor for Historic Preservation, for *Santa Fe: A Pictorial History*, 1985; New Mexico Press Association awards for *Santa Fe Reporter* humor column, 1980 and 1981

PUBLISHING: Books: Author: *The Use of Artistic Works in Conflict Resolution*, Igbo Studies Association, Owerri, Nigeria, June 2017, will be developed into a book-length manuscript for publication by Editions Universitaires Européennes, Saarbrücken, Germany; *New Faces at the Crossroads: The World in Central Indiana*, International Center of Indianapolis (IU Press), 2007; *War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra* (Mesa Verde Press), 2002; *Santa Fe: A Pictorial History* (Donning), 1983, 2nd edition 1996; ghostwriter, *Your First Job*, 1993, and *Ace Any Test*, 1992 (Career Press); *Taos: A Pictorial History* (Gannon), 1990 **Editor/Contributor:** Editor, *Poesia: Painting in a Venetian Garden with Giorgione* by Rosanna Hardin Hall, 2017; foreword, *March to Megiddo*, former Nigerian soldier's memoir of Nigerian history, civil war. 2017; Creator, "Looking Up College Avenue," historic architecture treasure hunt, 2015-2016; *Remembering Biafra* (sole non-Nigerian author), (Goldline and Jacobs), 2010; editor, *Resumes! Resumes! Resumes!* (Career Press), 1995; contributor, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* (IU Press), 1994; editor, *Rambling Through the 1880s*, George Stevens' autobiography, Santa Fe, 1983-85 **Periodicals: Author:** fiction/creative nonfiction, including *So It Goes*, *Tarasque*, *Indiannual II*, *Flying Island*, *Santa Fe Reporter*, *Indiana Writes*, *Friends of Nigeria Newsletter*, *Peace Corps Writers*; feature articles/photographs in dozens of magazines/newspapers, including *Travel/Holiday*, *Modern Maturity*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Denver Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Miami Herald*, *Newsday*; "Generally Sherman" humor column, *Santa Fe Reporter*; Old Santa Fe series, *Albuquerque Journal*; comedy material for Miss Joan Rivers **Blogs:** "Home," Spirit & Place website; "Remembrances of Funeral of John F. Kennedy," Indiana Humanities website

Libretto: Libretto for opera *Biafra*, with score composed by Nathaniel Blume, world premiere, Indianapolis Artsgarden

PHOTOGRAPHY

Individual Advancement Program Grant, Indiana Arts Commission: Photography: Create a series of photographic profiles of women undergoing chemotherapy, 2018-2019 (Additional funding provided by Central Indiana Community Foundation, Efroymsen Family Fund, and Cancer Support Community: Central Indiana) – solo exhibition of 12 women's portraits scheduled for Harrison Center, Indianapolis, October 2019

Solo Show: "Nigeria on My Mind. Again." Historic and current photos shot in Nigeria, civil-war ephemera, chief's regalia, writings, opera video, Harrison Center for the Arts, (Efroymsen Family Fund grant for exhibit), February 2018 (Online/DVD version created, 2018, available with narration on Mesa Verde Press website); **Juried Shows:** 2012-2019: FLAVA Fresh XVI, four venues each year, 2019-2022; Celebration of Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Harrison Center for the Arts; IDADA Membership Exhibitions; "TINY III," Gallery 924, Arts Council of Indianapolis; "Aperture Stop," Nickel Plate Arts Center, Noblesville; "The Hanging of the Green," Harrison Center for the Arts

PHOTO/POETRY POSTERS ON EXHIBIT (*Large-format posters of John Sherman's poetry and photography*)

displayed at the following venues, 2008- and viewable on Mesa Verde Press website): **Juried Shows:** “Well Traveled,” Fletcher Place Arts; Arts Council of Indianapolis: “Art & Soul 2015,” “The Contemporary Landscape Show,” and “The Self-Portrait Show”; “*The RISK of Faith*,” Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis; Logansport Art Association (recipient of prizes); “Social Currency,” Stutz ArtsSpace; “War Today: Marching into Social Consciousness,” Art Community Inc. and artspace30.com; “Life Canvas: The Words of Art and History,” SullivanMunce Cultural Center, Zionsville, (recipient of prize) **Solo Shows:** Eleven shows, including Garfield Park Arts Center, Indy Reads Books, Indiana Interchurch Center (IIC grant for producing additional posters), Indiana Humanities, Indianapolis Artsgarden, and Harrison Center

Other photography credits listed among writing credits (e.g., photos for feature articles published across the U.S. in dozens of major newspapers and magazines)

SCRIPTS, INTERVIEWS, PAPERS, LECTURES:

“Old Africa Maps, with Emphasis on Kingdom of Biafara (sic)” paper/map exhibit, Igbo Studies Association (ISA) conference, Dominican University, River Forest Illinois, 2019; “Biafra Then, Biafra Now,” paper, ISA conference, Dominican University, 2018; TV, Online TV, and print media interviews, Eleme and Onitsha, Nigeria, June 2017; “The Use of Artistic Works in Conflict Resolution,” ISA Conference, Owerri, Nigeria, June 2017, followed by lecture tour at University of Nigeria, Gregory University, and University of Abuja; participant, music video, “4Mula,” with musician T-Blinkz Mic’Dibia, Abuja, Nigeria, June 2017; “The Urban/Rural Conflict in African Literature,” ISA Conference, Dominican University, 2016 (under consideration for publishing in ISA book of essays and papers); “Dialogue,” national radio program with George Liston Seay, on Nigeria/Biafra Civil War, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC (rebroadcast on WFYI-FM, Indianapolis); “Generally Sherman,” daily one-minute drive-time radio spots, KLSK-FM, Santa Fe; “Santa Fe Speaks,” oral-history project with old-timers of Santa Fe; writer/editor, slide-show scripts for Washington, DC, public schools, Eliot Eliosofon Collection, Museum of African Art, Washington, DC; “Educating against War and Militarism through Creative Writing Based on Personal Experiences,” African-centered conferences in Abuja, Nigeria; Milwaukee, WI; and Washington, DC; annual lecture, Jay County Historical Society, poetry and humor columns related to family farm; “Perspectives on a Family Farm,” Whiting Public Library; lecture, “Santa Fe and Taos,” Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art; lecture, “Taos,” symposium on artists of New Mexico, Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis

CHIEFTANCY HONOR: Made Chief Oneh Nkuma 1, Kingdom of Eleme, Nigeria, by King of Eleme, 2017

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Creator of “Indy Arts Friends” page on Facebook; *ArtfulWordz*, e-newsletter re artistic works, honors of John Sherman, writer/artist Chi Sherman, film historian Eric Grayson, and artist/writer Rosanna Hardin Hall