

MELANIE FIANDER

PHOTOGRAPHER & PROFESSOR

CONTACT



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[Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

WEBSITES

www.fianderfoto.com

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EDUCATION

MFA / Photography & Video
Maine College of Art
Portland, ME
2005-2007

Graduate Level Certificate
Documentary Photography
The Salt Institute for Documentary
Studies
Portland, ME
2004

BA / Studio Art
Emphasis in Photography
University of Lynchburg
Lynchburg, VA
2000-2004

BA / English
Emphasis in Writing
University of Lynchburg
Lynchburg, VA
2000-2004

High-School Diploma
Bishop O'Connell High School
Arlington, VA
1996-2000

PROFILE

19+ Years in the Field of Photography: as a photographer and owner of a company, as a professor of the subject, as a commercial shooter, and as an editor. Since 2004, I have operated a successful photography business, Fiander Foto. I also have a background in video and time-based media. Having worked in the field of higher education since 2007, I have extensive experience teaching photography; both online and in the classroom. I'm currently an online instructor and course creator at both the University of California–San Diego and at Sessions College of Art and Design. I enjoy sharing my “real-life” work experience with my photography students regarding shooting, lighting, editing, marketing, content development, web design, SEO, management skills, and accounting. I'm a positive individual with strong critical thinking abilities. I'm professionally skilled in communication, writing, administrative duties, multi-tasking, and working in a fast-paced environment with tight deadlines.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PHOTOGRAPHER & OWNER

Fiander Foto | Smiths, Bermuda | 2004 - Present

I am a destination wedding and portrait photographer. I also specialize in landscapes, architecture, corporate, and content.

- I photograph 25 weddings and 75 portrait & event sessions per year.
- Knowledge of Photographic Process, Cameras, Lenses, & Lighting; Proficient Adobe Creative Suite, including Photoshop, Acrobat, Bridge, & Lightroom; Web Design
- Excels at Writing & Communication, Marketing, Accounting, & Administrative Duties
- 41 publications, 21 Solo and Group Shows, 10 Awards and Grants

FACULTY & CURRICULUM DEVELOPER

University of California – San Diego: Extended Studies | San Diego, CA / Online | 2021 - Present

I am an adjunct faculty member in the Digital Photography Program, where I teach photography. I also write courses for this program.

- Courses Taught and Written: Architecture Photography, Digital Photography Workflow (Adobe Lightroom), Photojournalism/Street Photography, and Wedding Photography
- Researched the history of photography, multiple genres, post production, leading photographers, photojournalism, street photography, documentary photography, and lessons on conducting photo shoots and becoming a professional
- Maintains a high level of personal and professional integrity while teaching, mentoring, and critiquing students. Maintains a high level of communication, organization, knowledge of the industry, and has the ability to meet deadlines

FACULTY & COURSE CREATOR

Sessions College of Art & Design | Tempe, AZ / Online | 2021 - Present

I am an adjunct faculty member in the BFA program, where I teach photography. I also write courses for this program.

- Courses Taught and Written: Adobe Photoshop, Commercial & Event Photography, Photographic Genres, and Senior Project
- Researched photography: the history of, multiple genres, leading photographers, lighting, and lessons on how to conduct photo shoots and become a professional photographer
- Maintains a high level of personal and professional integrity while teaching, mentoring, and critiquing students. Maintains a high level of communication, organization, knowledge of the industry, and has the ability to meet deadlines

PHOTO SKILLS

- 19+ Years' Experience
- Wedding, Event, Portraiture, Photojournalism, Documentary, Architecture,
- Video, Time Based Media, & Audio
- Digital & Film Photographic Process & Printing
- Studio & Location Lighting
- Traditional Wet Darkroom

TEACHING SKILLS

- 16+ Years of Higher Education - Online & Ground Campuses, Adult Education, Workshops & Mentorships
- Course Writing / SME
- Platforms: Canva, Brightspace, Blackboard, eCollege
- Zoom, GoTo Webinar, & GoTo Meeting, Adobe Connect, Skype
- YouTube, Vimeo, SnagIt, Skitch
- Lynda.com & Creative Live

SOFTWARE

- Apple & PC Computer Platforms
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Apple Creative Applications
- Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook

BUSINESS SKILLS

- Advanced Writing & Editing
- Website Design: Squarespace, WordPress, & Behance
- Marketing: Branding, Print, Social Media, HTML & SEO
- Product Design & Sales
- Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Contract Writing Experience
- Creative Problem-Solving

PERSONAL SKILLS

- Organized & Ability to Multitask
- Time Management & Ability to Meet Deadlines
- Works Independently & with a Team; Take & Give Direction
- Creative Problem-Solving
- Encouraging & Positive Attitude

CO-OWNER, MANAGER & MARKETING SPECIALIST

Early Bird Charters | Smiths Parish, Bermuda | 2013 – Present

A sustainable commercial and charter family fishing and boating business.

- Operate approximately 40 - 50 Fishing & Boating Charters per year; commercial fisherwoman selling fish to over 10 locations in Bermuda.
- Knowledge of The Dep't of Fisheries' Regulations on Commercial Fishing and Marine & Ports Regulations and Safety Protocols, Billing, Payroll, B2C & B2B Marketing, and Sales
- Manage & Schedule our Team of Fishermen and Fisherwomen & our Internship Program.
- 3 Fishing Awards, including the "Best of Bermuda: Fresh Fish" Award.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROFESSOR

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh – Online Division | Pittsburgh, PA | 2012 - 2019

I taught 16 collegiate level photography courses for the academic year. I carried out faculty duties, while maintaining office hours and my own professional development.

- Courses Taught: Lighting I & II, Advanced Lighting, Location Lighting, Studio Lighting I & II, Portraiture I & II, Time Based Media I & II, Photo Marketing & Portfolio
- Maintained a high level of personal and professional integrity while teaching, mentoring, and critiquing students. Maintained a high level of organization to meet deadlines and maintained a professional knowledge of the industry
- Organized and ran a Photography Lecture Series for 4 years, which involved scheduling celebrity photographers to speak to school & maintaining a budget. Wrote and maintained an Educational Blog for students for 4 years, which involved 3 posts/week

PHOTOGRAPHY PROFESSOR

The Art Institute of Washington | Arlington, VA | 2010 - 2013

I taught 16 collegiate level photography courses for the academic year. I carried out faculty duties, while maintaining office hours and my own professional development.

- Courses Taught: Lighting I, Location Lighting, Photojournalism & Documentary Photography, Landscape & Cityscape, and Portfolio.
- Maintained a Professional Knowledge of the Industry and a High Level of Personal and Professional Integrity while Teaching, Mentoring, and Critiquing Students
- Participated in Portfolio Reviews & judging yearly Food Photography Exhibitions

PHOTOJOURNALIST ASSISTANT & OFFICE MANAGER

Thatcher Cook | Westbrook, ME | 2008-2010

I assisted Thatcher Cook with scanning and archiving over 1,400 black and white negatives for his recent publication, titled "Black Apple", which featured images shot during his time in Kyrgyzstan funded by a Fulbright Scholarship.

- Skilled in scanning, editing, and properly archiving black and white negatives.
- Assisted with preparation for multiple national and international photography workshops.
- Assisted with preparing for travel when going on assignment for Mercy Core, a non-profit that focuses on disaster response and sustainable economic development.
- General office and admin duties including correspondence and scheduling.
- and submitted final edits to editor within 12-24 hours.
- Communicated with editors and other journalists
- Maintained a high level of multitasking, strong communication and organizational skills

PHOTOJOURNALIST

On Tap Magazine and *The Blue Room* | Alexandria, VA and Portland, ME | 2008-2009

I was a freelance photojournalist for two publications.

- Photographed local events for both publications.
- Culled, edited and submitted images to editors within 12-24 hours
- Communicated and collaborated with editors and journalists

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

Native Language

ITALIAN

Advanced

SPANISH

Intermediate

REFERENCES

DR. DOUG BARKEY

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University of The Bahamas
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DR. SYLVEN BECK

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PROF. MARY YATES

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The Art Institute of Pittsburgh –
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KHAM CHANTHYASAK

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Khampakone.chanthyasak@ssa.gov

THATCHER COOK

Photojournalist
Thatcher Cook Photography
1-207-712-7116

ARTIST ASSISTANT & OFFICE MANAGER

William Pope.L | Lewiston, ME | 2008-2010

I worked in the achieve of William Pope.L, a performance artist, painter, and educator. I was responsible for organizing and categorizing all of his past and present media items as well as publications written by and about him. Additional office duties included:

- Scanning his series, “Skin Sets”, Categorized his series, “Failure Drawings”.
- Assisted with preparation for national and international art shows and performances
- Interacted with photographers, artists, art museums, and collectors to provide a variety of services to help coordinate the events, exhibitions, and sales.
- General office and admin duties including correspondence, scheduling, billing, packages of art pieces, creating and mailing marketing materials.
- Maintained a high level of multitasking, strong communication and organizational skills

ART PROFESSOR

McIntosh College | Dover, NH | 2007-2008

I taught “Creative Thinking” and “Art Appreciation” to college students along with arranging guest speakers.

- Created Syllabi for Courses, Taught the Material, and Submitted Grades by Deadline
- Maintained a High Level of Personal and Professional Integrity while Teaching, Mentoring, and Critiquing Students
- Maintained a High Level of Organization to meet Deadlines and maintained a Professional Knowledge of the Industry

PHOTOGRAPHER & CLERK

U.S. Government, Social Security Administration, Office of Hearings and Appeals – Media Department | Arlington, VA | 2003-2007

I photographed meetings, events, and portraits at Social Security along with working in the Department’s archive.

- Photographed Government Officials and Events at Social Security and edited photographs using Adobe Photoshop.
- Assisted with running video cameras at events and editing the reels.
- Created and organized an online digital archive: scanning black and white and color negatives, downloading and backing up digital images, and maintaining archive system.
- Clerical work included answering phones, emails, and organizing and stocking office supplies.
- I had the opportunity to also work with graphic designers and assisted in the creation of several pamphlets for events.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS - *Selected*

- Way Up North's "All Roads Mentorship" | Smiths, Bermuda | July – August 2021
- Podcast: "You'll Find this Photog in the Tropics or DC" | Washington, DC | 11.19.20
- Photography Farm Online Workshop (Attendee) | London, UK | 03.27.2020
- Callie Lindsay Workshop (Attendee) | Nashville, TN | 01.12-15.2019
- Photography Farm Workshop (Attendee) | Edinburgh, Scotland | 03.08-09.2018
- Pecha Kucha Lecture: "My First Hurricane – A Photo Essay" | Warwick, Bermuda | 2.15.2015
- Artist Talk at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh - Online Division | Online | 02.25.2014
- Pecha Kucha Lecture: "The Decisive Moment in Commercial Photography" | Sandys, Bermuda | 11.07.2013
- Artist Talk at The Institute for Contemporary Art at MECA | Portland, ME | 05.01.2007
- Artist Talk at The Portland Museum of Art | Portland, ME | 04.01.2007

PUBLICATIONS - *Selected*

- Fiander, Melanie "Humanist Wedding Ceremony in Scotland", *Way Up North*, Stockholm, Sweden, 5.25.20. shorturl.at/esAlo
- Telfer, Steph, "Two Dresses + A Big Surprise for Gran at this Perthshire Wedding at Errol Park", *Scottish Wedding* (Online Magazine), 4.03.20. shorturl.at/empqw
- Tobin, Jacqueline, "Wedding Proposal Game Plan", *Rangefinder Magazine*, 2.13.20; shorturl.at/dqtWX
- Fiander, Melanie, "A Chat with Melanie Fiander, the Face Behind the Lens of Fiander Foto", *Destination Weddings and Honeymoons Abroad*, (Magazine), May/June 2019. <https://bit.ly/2BzSyWx>
- Gillespie, Sarah, "Dream Teams: Romantic Styling Against Glencoe's Breathtaking Landscape", *Tie the Knot Scotland* (Magazine), 3.8.19. shorturl.at/eEQU8
- Fiander, Melanie, "Highland Love", *Seasons of Yes*, (Book) Dornbirn, Austria, 9.1.18. <https://bit.ly/2KqJUfw>
- Essertier, Dylan, "21 of the Dreamiest Wedding Venues in Bermuda", *The Venue Report*, (blog) 8.24.18. <https://bit.ly/2PBrifd>
- Gioia, Michael, "Josh Young & Emily Padgett Get Engaged", *Playbill.com*, (Blog). 1.12.17. <https://bit.ly/2DQxmxQ>

CURATOR / VOLUNTEER

FOUNDER & CURATOR

Fiander Film Festival | Washington DC | 2011-2012

I founded, hosted, and curated a film festival at The Dunes, which featured 35 filmmakers. I was responsible for contacting all filmmakers, the application process, and the curation.

- Developed the branding and marketing for the event, which included a website design, SEO, and writing press releases for local newspapers; Created merchandise that was sold at the event; Managed the sale and distribution of tickets, which was a sold-out event.

SHOWS & AWARDS - *Selected*

- 2022 – Nominee, *Female Entrepreneur of the Year*, Bermuda
- 2020, 2019, 2018 – Award, *Wedding Wire's Choice Awards*, Bermuda
- 2017 - *Charman Prize*, Masterworks Museum of Bermuda Art, Hamilton, Bermuda
- 2017 – Award, *Photo District News*, "Celebrations" Photo Competition, NYC
- 2015/2016 – *Salt Stories: 10 Years Later*, Bermuda Society of Arts, Bermuda
- 2012 - *Fiander Film Festival*, The Dunes, Washington DC
- 2010 - *Free For All*, Space Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2007 - *Portland Museum of Art Biennial*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
- 2006 – Award, *The Photo Review*, Competition Issue, Langhorne, PA

Additional information available upon request.