

Photo: P.L. Jeppson, July 2007



John Edward Dowell, Jr.

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John Edward Dowell
Contemporary American Artist

**Photographs
of the President's House
Archeological Site**

A joint project of the
Office of the Mayor, City of Philadelphia
and Independence National Historical Park

On Display

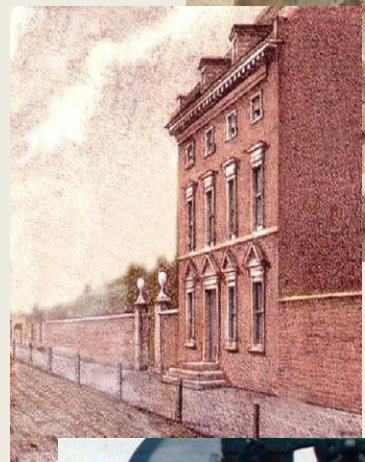
Independence Visitor Center

6th and Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

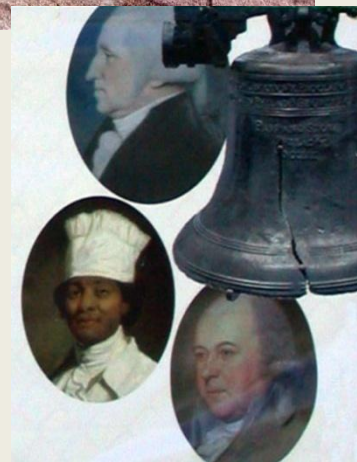
Hours: 8:30am-6pm

Photographing the Excavation

The historical developments of the President’s House archeological excavation have been recorded by renowned, African American artist, John Edward Dowell Jr.



President’s House Site
Independence Park
Philadelphia, PA



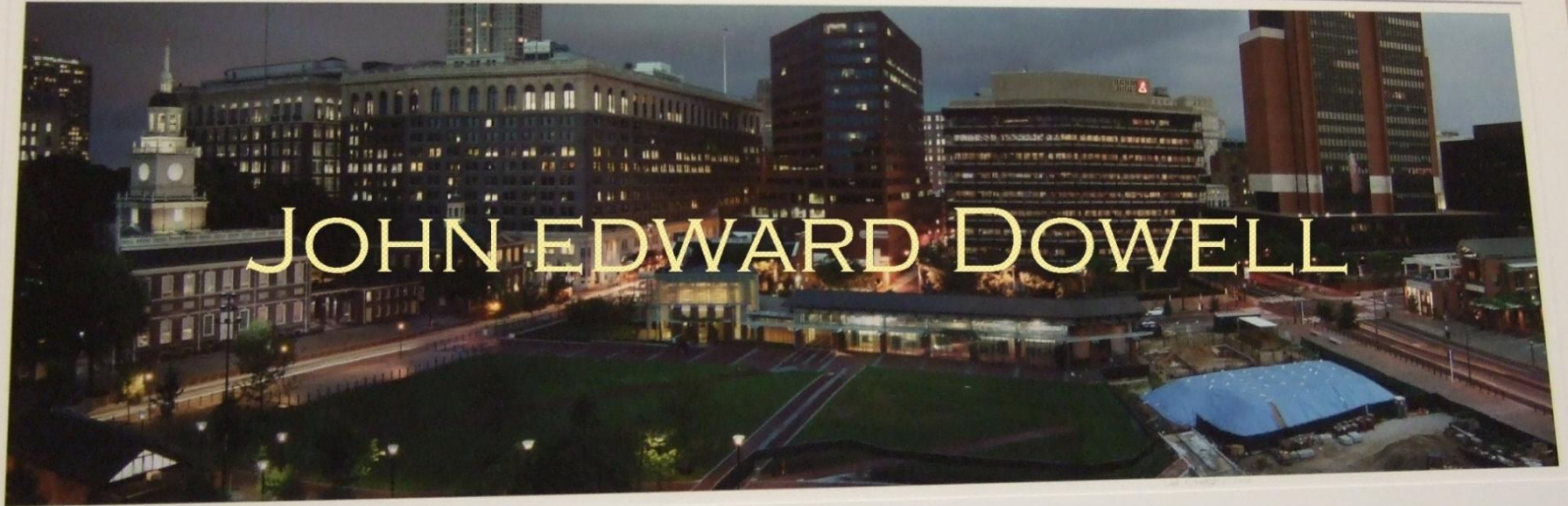
Credits: Photos by P.L. Jeppson, July 2007; Independence Park signage.



As the excavation progressed during the spring and summer of 2007, John Dowell created a series of unique, photographic art pieces.

This art work was commissioned by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia.

John Edward Dowell Jr.
(left figure, *middle picture right*)
and an assistant photograph
the President's House site in
July of 2007.



These photographs document the archeology of freedom and slavery during the birth of our nation.

They document our nation's acknowledgement of this truth more than 200 years later.

The archaeological discoveries will live on, immemorial, in the photographs created by John Edward Dowell.

A selection of John Dowell's President's House site photographs are now displayed at the Independence Visitor Center (IVC) in Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This IVC photographic display is located directly across the street from the site of the President's House excavation at the corner of 6th and Market streets.



This symbol marks the location of the President's House Archeological Site located at the corner of 6th and Market Streets in the Old City portion of Philadelphia.



Photo by P.L. Jeppson. July 2007.

John Edward Dowell’s photographic art involves large format photographs. These range from 2 x 5 feet through 4 x 20 feet in size.

Dowell creates these large images using a *4-by-5 format* field camera.

After developing the prints, Dowell digitally scans them to produce highly detailed, deeply contextualized, images.

Dowell's photographic style is known both for how it conveys life in the urban metropolis and for its unique perspective and lighting. His pictures are shot from high-rise vantage points and are generally taken at sun-up and sun-down.



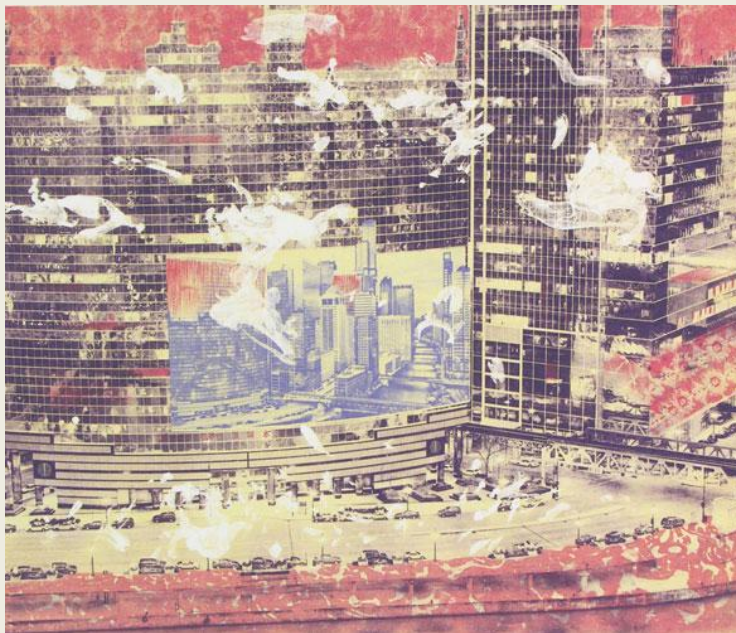
Twin Towers, (Chicago)

copyright John Dowell

“Dowell's photographs capture a natural, ethereal-type of iridescence that results from a blend of light and movement. As guests survey the multi-dimensional photographs, they marvel at the spectrum of color and cutting-edge photographic style. They also point out the clarity of everyday life captured in the photos, which convey the tale of metropolitan life in each respective city ”

(Bobbie Booker, Blog, at WorldPress.com).

www.johndowell.com



John Edward Dowell, Jr.

www.johndowell.com

Did You Know It, lithograph, 2005
copyright John Dowell

After more than 35 years working as a painter, etcher, and lithographer, contemporary American artist John Edward Dowell Jr. now creates in the photographic medium. Dowell finds artistic inspiration for his works in the music of jazz greats such as Miles Davis, Cecil Taylor, Archie Shepp, Percy Heath, Dave Brubeck, and John Coltrane and in the work of Abstract Expressionists, including Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. An eclectic mixture of ethnic influences—from Caribbean and Latino art to Afro-Cuban Santería, Brazilian Macumba, and Haitian voodoo—also shape his work.

Dowell's works in canvas, ceramics, and print are in the permanent collections of 70 museums and public collections worldwide, including the Biblioteque Nationale Museum in Paris, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and Yale University Museum.



Initiation , acrylic on canvas, 1988
copyright John Dowell

Dowell has had more than 50 one-person exhibitions at prestigious venues including the 35th Venice Biennale, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Boston Museum, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

www.johndowell.com

Work by John Edward Dowell, Jr. was included in the Chicago Art Institute's exhibition "A Century of Collecting African American Art". Dowell has been part of formal discussions on the realities of being an African American artist.

John Dowell's photographs have been added to the collections of the Huston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fog Museum of Harvard University, RISD Museum, Lehigh University Museum, Clark University Art Galleries permanent Collection, and the Davison Art Center Collection of Wesleyan University.



Photo by P. L. Jeppson, June 2008

In April of 2008, a selection of John Dowell's President's House photographs were put on display in the Independence Visitor Center at 6th and Market Street in Philadelphia.



Photo by F.L. Jeppson, July 2007

Philadelphia-born John Edward Dowell Jr. received a BFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in 1963. He earned his MFA in printmaking and drawing from the University of Washington in 1966.

John Edward Dowell Jr. is Professor of Printmaking at the Tyler School of Art of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

John Dowell (in white, middle right) and assistant photographing the President's House site in July, 2007.



Photo of Independence Park signage by P.L. Jeppson, May, 2007.

The archeological research conducted at the site of the President's House was supported by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. The excavation took place in the spring and summer of 2007, during the John Street Administration. The excavation was a gift to the nation from the people of Philadelphia.

The archeological research at the President's House site was a joint project of Independence National Historical Park and the Office of the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. The National Park Service provided project oversight . Field research was performed by archeologists from URS Corporation. Park Service personnel and volunteer archeologists assisted with public interpretation.

Archeologists excavating at the site of the President's House in the summer, 2007.

Photo by P. L. Jeppson



Learn more about...

John Edward Dowell Jr.

www.johndowell.com

The Independence Visitors Center

<http://www.independencevisitorcenter.com/>

The President's House Project

www.Ushistory.org

<http://www.phila.gov/presidentshouse/>

Archeology in Independence

National Historical Park

<http://www.nps.gov/inde/archeology-in-independence-national-historical-park.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/inde/archeology.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/inde/james-dexter-site.htm>

Art and Archaeology:

NPS Southeast Archeological Center 's
Interpretive Art Project

http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/ancientmuses/CD/04_pate/

Archeology and Opera <http://www.nps.gov/seac/zabette.htm>

<http://www.cyberpursuits.com/archo/art-arch.asp>

African American Archaeology

African Diaspora Archaeology Network <http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/>

Archeology for the public/African American Archaeology

http://www.saa.org/public/links/archeologywebsites_AfAM.html

General Archaeology

Archeology for the public (www.saa.org/public)

About.com Archeology <http://archaeology.about.com/>

ArchNet <http://archnet.asu.edu/>

Archeology in Philadelphia

Philadelphia Archeological Forum (www.phillyarchaeology.org)

Penn Museum of Archeology and Anthropology

<http://www.museum.upenn.edu/>