

Award for Excellence Recipient Thomas Roma in Residence

As Director of Photography at Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York City, Tom Roma is accustomed to keeping company with creative people. So when he was awarded the VCCA Award for Excellence in the Arts, and a residency, the normally enticing mixture of talented artists was not something he saw as all that unusual.

Nevertheless, Tom welcomed the opportunity to focus exclusively for a week in March on his current photography project, and once in residence, set to work re-reading William Carlos Williams' five-volume epic poem "Paterson," to which his eleventh monograph will pay homage. He quickly discovered that being at the VCCA, away from the phone ringing for business throughout the day, made "a different kind of concentration available to me."

Given the complexity of Williams' celebrated modernist experiment, and the detailed planning necessary for taking photographs along the path Williams followed making house calls as a physician, Tom found that the focused work he was able to do was an "enormous and unexpected help." Particularly fond of the communal meals, he came to greatly admire the dedication of the working artists he met and remembers the VCCA as "a special place."

Currently completing his tenth book of photographs, *On Three Pillars: Torah, Worship and the Practice of Loving Kindness, The Synagogues of Brooklyn*, to be published in the fall of 2007, Tom is the recipient of two Guggenheim Fellowships.

Initiated by an anonymous donor, and rotating through three disciplines, the VCCA Award for Excellence in the Arts is presented annually to a prominent writer, visual artist or composer whose significant achievement is widely recognized. The award, which is administered by the VCCA Fellows Council, includes a residency, an honorarium and a travel stipend.

– Will Holub



Amy Allen

VCCA Fellows Council Chair, filmmaker David Petersen, Executive Director Suny Monk and photographer Tom Roma at the awards ceremony in New York.

Visual Artists

Ann Schaumburger's "Versailles Project" was exhibited in 2006 at A.I.R. Gallery in New York City.

Neil Shawcross: Forty Years of Portrait Painting," was presented at the Ulster Museum, Belfast, Ireland in 2006.

In 2006, **Steed Taylor** created "Indigenous," a site-specific "road tattoo" on the entrance drive of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in Durham, NC.

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, TN presented "Model Citizens," an exhibition of work by **Bob Trotman** in 2007.