

Deborah Willis

Deborah Willis (b. 1948) is an African American photographer, curator, historian of photography, author, and educator. She is known for her pioneering work of investigating and preserving the legacy of black photography, and for curating various exhibitions on black culture.

She is the author of numerous publications including, *Black Photographers, 1840-1940: An Illustrated Bio-bibliography* (1985); *J.P. Ball, Daguerrean and Studio Photographer* (1993); *Picturing Us: African American Identity in Photography* (1994, Editor); *Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present* (2000); and *The Black Female Body: A Photographic History* (2002, with Carla Williams).

Willis's curatorial exhibitions include *Black Photographers Bear Witness: 100 Years of Social Protest* (1989); *Imagining Families: Images and Voices* (1994); and *Visual Journal: Harlem and D.C. in the Thirties and Forties* (1996). She was also awarded the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship among others.

Willis is a university professor and chair of the Department of Photography and Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, a position she has held since 2006.