Project Title: The Big Picture Photographer Laureate 2006
Artist: Steven S. Gregory
Year Completed: 2006
Materials: digital prints
Commissioning Agency: City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Location: City Limits

The purpose of the project was to commission an artist to photograph and respond to life in the City of Tampa. The Photographer Laureate Program is inspired by historic photographic projects including the Farm Workers Administration, the National Endowment for the Arts, and regional Photographic Archives. The program’s long-range vision is to build a public collection comprised of images that are representative of the life and times in Tampa, by regional, national and international photographers.

Artist’s Concept:
Steven S. Gregory’s latest photographic work came to fruition with the joining of two entities... inspiration and technology. Inspiration from the early western muralist Albert Bierstadt, who not only documented the landscapes in front of him, but by using what he called “the power of combination” created scenes of majesty and splendor that represented our country.

Steven is now utilizing the constantly improving digital technology to look beyond what is seen. First working early in the morning and just before sunset he searches for shifting light and its transforming effect on textures, shadows, and colors. He then supplements this already beautiful lighting with artificial light, dramatically transforming the scene. Once at the computer dramatic skies and unusual objects are combined to create images that invoke the feeling and emotion of the subjects.

The City of Tampa’s Public Art Program promotes the involvement of artists in projects throughout the city that enhance the physical environment and celebrate Tampa’s unique character and identity. The Program is part of the City of Tampa, Art Programs Division.