

David Graham

Date of Birth:
10/11/1952

Place of Birth:
Abington,
Pennsylvania



**James Gallagher as
George Washington,
1992**
dye-coupler print on
paper
H. 19 x W. 18.5
inches
Group I

“For more than twenty years he has been recording the scenes of a mobile America looking for meaning at the crossroads of kitsch and culture, past and present, and fantasy and reality—and has indeed given us a portrait of a country that refuses to fit, like himself, into neat categories.”

—Jeffrey Hoone

Photographer David Graham portrays the United States through the eyes of its people and their habits, in what he calls “cultural landscapes.” His subjects have included everything from abandoned buildings, to giant doughnuts, to historical impersonators. Graham has a way of taking the viewer on a trip to illustrate the unique side of the country through the objects people display—the creative expressions of ordinary people as evidenced by their homes, yards, cars, and decorations. His photographs are like the genre paintings of the seventeenth century, showing people enjoying themselves, yet juxtapositioning elements of contradiction.

Graham studied at the Philadelphia College of Art, now the University of the Arts. Though starting out with a traditional camera, he began to use a large-format camera while he was at Tyler School of Art working on his MFA. He used this camera on several cross-country trips, with the results being published in his first book, *American Beauty*. This was followed by many subsequent books based on the theme of how America lives. He has completed two books with the author and poet Andrei Codrescu (*Road Scholar* and *Ay, Cuba*) and has worked on magazine assignments for *Details*, *Fortune*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The New York Times Magazine*.

Graham lives in Newtown, Pennsylvania, and is a close neighbor to the photographer Emmet Gowin, whose work was an early influence on Graham. Currently, Graham is a professor at the University of the Arts, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.