



## Documenting Changing and Adapting Cultures:

### Photography in Senegal

April 18, 2015 • 3-5 pm

with Dr. Allen Roberts and Rob Aft

EAC's 6<sup>th</sup> program inaugurates our photography series of distinct peoples and cultures today.

So-called "Ethnic" peoples (the "exotic others" as many photographers portray them) are not museum objects to study for the pleasure of the apocryphal "Non-Ethnics" among us. Many of our grandparents were plenty "ethnic" and we chose to change and adapt to the realities of 21<sup>st</sup> century life as have people around the world. As fascinating as it can be when our cultures preserve their traditions, it can be just as interesting to see how they adapt to forces of modernization, urbanization and technology

Documentary photography means learning as much as possible about the people you will be photographing before the trip, keeping an open mind, getting to know your subjects as individuals and respecting their choices of what to preserve or reject from their own traditions. Documentary photography involves a degree of intrusion into peoples' lives as well as a sense that the documentation is worth the effort and potential conflict/discomfort associated with being intrusive. How does a photographer minimize the sense of intrusion and maximize the importance of the documentation?

These issues will be explored in historical context focusing on photography in Senegal, West Africa from the 1850's to today. Our presenters are Dr. Allen F. Roberts, UCLA Professor in the Dept. of World Cultures/Dance, and EAC Board Member and amateur photographer, Rob Aft, who have both traveled and photographed in Senegal. They will present historical images as well as their own photographs.

**This unique program will be held at the home of renowned African art collectors, Dr. Richard and Jan Baum. RSVP early. Limited to 40 people. Refreshments served.**

**RSVP by NOON April 12, 2015 by email to [robaft@roadrunner.com](mailto:robaft@roadrunner.com)**