

Andrew Stawicki

(b. 1948)

Photographer, social activist, publisher



Andrew Stawicki immigrated to Canada from his native Poland in 1982. Already the winner of a World Press Photo Award (1980), he joined the staff of the *Toronto Star* in 1983 and stayed there for twenty-three years. He contributed to five books in the internationally renowned *A Day In The Life Of* series, each depicting twenty-four hours in the life of a country as captured by a team of top photojournalists. *People Apart*, Stawicki's ten-year photographic study of the unique world of the Mennonites, was published in 1995.

In 1990, Stawicki co-founded PhotoSensitive, a non-profit national collective of photographic artists. Their probing documentary style exposes problems such as child poverty, homelessness, the struggle of people with intellectual disabilities to find a place in the community, racism, AIDS, illiteracy, and the plight of First Nations people. PhotoSensitive creates and shares images whose impact carries forward: many of the organizations PhotoSensitive has worked with, such as the Canadian Cancer Society, have benefited from increased public awareness and donations.

PhotoSensitive went international in 2008 with a project on the impact of HIV in Rwanda, where many women were infected as they were raped in the 1994 genocide. The project paired Canadian and Rwandan photographers, encouraging the work to continue after the Canadians had left. Widely published in the Rwandan press, the photographs helped educate the public on the effects, treatment and containment of the disease.

Stawicki's publishing brainchild, Our Kids Publications Ltd., issues magazines that inform parents (*Our Kids Go To School*, *Our Kids Go To Camp*), independent educators (*Dialogue*) and seniors (*Comfort Life* and *Dialogue+*).

In recognition of his outstanding work, Andrew Stawicki has received National Newspaper Awards in 1993 and 2000, a Gold Medal from the Society of Newspaper Design in 1996, and the 2002 Golden Jubilee Medal.

Photos from top left clockwise:
• Andrew Stawicki / Photo – self-portrait • A. Stawicki – two pictures – *Ntarama Genocide*
• A. Stawicki – from exhibition *Child Poverty*



POLISH SPIRIT