Tommy Ross
Artist Statement

Throughout America we are seeing large development companies buying land and old buildings in historic neighborhoods to develop them and turn a profit for their investors. Unfortunately, a perfect example of this is Owens Reality Services and the historically African American neighborhood of Hannibal Square. My works focus on how this large realty company has monopolized Hannibal Square. My photos are all of this company's signs through all of Hannibal Square. There is not a street that you can walk down in Hannibal Square where you cannot see a property that is managed by Owens or a parcel of land waiting for development with a large Owens Sign on it. In many of my photographs you will see a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors of Owens signs. I want to show how even though you may not see one of their iconic signs on the property they most likely manage or own the property if it is in Hannibal Square. As you look through my portfolio you start and end with the iconic Owens signs. In the middle of those iconic signs are all of the smaller yet powerful signs of Owens.