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FOTOF O O C U S

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## FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL 2014: PHOTOGRAPHY IN DIALOGUE

Second Edition of Biennial Met with Acclaim Kevin Moore Named Artistic Director and Curator for FotoFocus Biennial 2016

FotoFocus Biennial 2014 October 8 – November 1, 2014 Cincinnati, Ohio

# #FotoFocus2014

Cincinnati, OH – November 10, 2014 – The second edition of the FotoFocus Biennial in Cincinnati, Ohio, a month-long celebration of contemporary photography and lens-based art, closed to critical acclaim on November 1, 2014.

Six FotoFocus exhibitions curated by FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore ran through November 1. During the opening weekend of October 8-12, Biennial programming at Memorial Hall featured screenings, lectures and performances by artists, curators, critics and art world professionals all focused on one theme: *Photography in Dialogue*. The opening weekend attracted 3,300 visitors to the FotoFocus exhibitions and Memorial Hall programming.

Based on the incoming attendance figures reported from 28 of the over 50 participating venues, this year's event has already exceeded the total attendance of the 2012 Biennial. Over 61,000 visitors viewed these exhibitions as of November 1, 2014.

Keynote Speaker Jeff L. Rosenheim, Curator in Charge of the Department of Photographs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, discussed the early history of photography during the Civil War, what he called "a watershed moment in American culture," and its significance to the role of photography in contemporary life. The lecture entitled, Shadow and Substance: Photography and the American Civil War, attracted an audience of 250 guests on Friday, October 10.

Special guest John Waters—American filmmaker, collector, visual artist, actor and writer—performed his one-man show about the origins of his career, *This Filthy World*, to a full house of 450 guests at Memorial Hall on Saturday, October 11. Additionally, Waters' photograph *Inga #3* (1994) was part of the FotoFocus exhibition *Stills*, co-curated by FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore and



John Waters performing *This Filthy World*, Oct 11, 2014 at Memorial Hall as part of the FotoFocus Biennial 2014. Photo by: Jacob Drabik

Among the noted art world professionals and artists who attended and participated in the opening weekend programming were: gallerist Deborah Bell, New York; Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell of Bidwell Projects and Transformer Station, Cleveland; dealer Damon Brandt, New York; Executive Director Kristen Erwin, the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Film Commission; gallerist Howard Greenberg, New York; University of Cincinnati Professor Todd Herzog; Curator Steven Matjicio, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Chairman and CEO Nion McEvoy of Chronicle Books, San Francisco; Director Raphaela Platow, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Photography Director Ivan Shaw, Vogue, New York; Associate Curator of Photography Brian Sholis, Cincinnati Art Museum; Associate Curator Elizabeth Siegel, the Art Institute of Chicago; Director Jessica Witkin, Salon 94, New York; and artists Martha Colburn, Elena Dorfman, Anne Lindberg, Matthew Porter and David Benjamin Sherry.

### KEVIN MOORE NAMED ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CURATOR FOR 2016

As the 2014 Biennial concludes, FotoFocus is pleased to announce that Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore will lead the curatorial direction for the next Biennial in 2016.

"We are thrilled that this year's event met with such success and that Kevin Moore will be working with us again for the 2016 Biennial as Artistic Director and Curator," said FotoFocus Executive Director Mary Ellen Goeke. "Kevin shares our commitment to enhancing the current dialogue on contemporary photography and we are eager to see what he has planned in the next two years."

"I am delighted to continue my work with FotoFocus and have the opportunity to develop exhibitions and programming that engage both the regional community and beyond," said FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore. "With the next Biennial, I hope to expand our reach and ignite further discussion about the state of photography today, as it relates to the world we live in, by sharing thought-provoking work of great quality with our visitors."





Installation views of Screenings (left) and Vivian Maier: A Quiet Pursuit (right). Photo credit: Tony Walsh

#### ONGOING FOTOFOCUS EXHIBITION

The FotoFocus exhibition, *Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs: The One-Eyed Thief*, curated by Kevin Moore at the Contemporary Arts Center, Downtown Cincinnati, will be on view through February 15, 2015. It is the first large museum exhibition of the Swiss duo in the US.

Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs (Swiss, both b. 1979) work collaboratively in photography, video, and installation. The exhibition comprises disparate yet interrelated bodies of work, including *The Great Unreal*, a body of work based on road trips made in the US between 2005 and 2008 which deals with the subject of America through the iconic action of the road trip. Onorato & Kreb's work opens a fertile dialogue on the subject of artistic collaboration as well as the "expansion" of photography as an artistic medium. Though much of their work is photographic, and is informed by the history of photography, the artists' engagement with other media —

film, sculpture, sound art – opens organically into other vistas of historical modernity and contemporary life.

## PARTICIPATING VENUES 2014

In addition to the six exhibitions curated by FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore, FotoFocus provided funding to 33 non-profit organizations, such as the Taft Museum of Art and Cincinnati Art Museum, to present photography-related exhibitions. All together, over 50 participating sites throughout the region presented photography and lens-based art throughout the run of the Biennial.

"The attendance for *Treasures in Black & White: Historic Photos of Cincinnati* at Cincinnati Museum Center was 19,098 people," confirmed a representative from Cincinnati Museum Center. "The number was impressive even in our museum context. Thank you for the support from FotoFocus. Needless to say, we are thrilled!"

21c Museum Hotel Cincinnati

Alice & Harris Weston Art Gallery — Aronoff Center

Antioch College — Herndon Gallery

Art Academy of Cincinnati — Pearlman Gallery Art Academy of Cincinnati — Convergys Gallery

Art Beyond Boundaries

Artworks: FotoFocus-Metro Bus Public Art Project

Artworks Lobby Gallery Behringer-Crawford Museum

Brazee Street Studios - gallery One One

Carl Solway Gallery Cincinnati Art Museum

Cincinnati History Museum at the Cincinnati Museum

Center

Clay Street Press

Clifton Cultural Arts Center Contemporary Arts Center

DAAP Galleries — Meyers Gallery-UC DAAP Galleries — Reed Gallery-UC DAAP Galleries — Sycamore Gallery-UC

Dayton Visual Arts Center

Freedom Center, National Underground Railroad Hebrew Union College Skirball Museum & Jacob

Reder Marcus Center Iris Bookcafé & Gallery Kennedy Heights Arts Center

La Poste Eatery

Manifest Gallery & Drawing Center

Mercantile Library Miller Gallery

 ${\bf Mount\ St.\ Joseph\ University\ -\ The\ Studio\ San}$ 

Giuseppe Art Gallery

Northern Kentucky University Fine Arts Center

Nvision photosmith

Phyllis Weston Gallery
Pop Revolution Gallery

Prairie

Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton Co. - Main

Retirement & Neighborhood Communities in

Cincinnat

Stivers School for the Arts — Fifth Street Gallery

Taft Museum of Art The Carnegie The Flats Gallery The Gallery Project

Thomas More College — Eva G. Farris Gallery UC Clermont College Park National Bank Art Gallery

Westcott House

Wilmington College — The Harcum Art Gallery Wright State Robert & Elaine Stein Galleries Xavier University — Art Gallery Cohen Center

YWCA Women's Art Gallery

For complete details about the FotoFocus Biennial 2014, visit www.fotofocusbiennial.org.



FotoFocus is a non-profit arts organization whose mission is to present the finest in contemporary photography and lens-based art, and to produce biennial events that are artistically, intellectually, and academically rigorous yet accessible and enriching to a large and diverse public. FotoFocus celebrates and champions photography as the medium of our time and its ubiquity in contemporary culture with programming that ignites a dialogue between contemporary photo-based art and the history of photography. Further information about FotoFocus can be found at: <a href="www.fotofocuscincinnati.org">www.fotofocuscincinnati.org</a>. Follow the FotoFocus Biennial on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram via hashtag #FotoFocus2014.

# MEDIA CONTACT

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