America’s Largest Photography Biennial Announces FotoFocus Program Week (October 4-7, 2018), Month-Long Film Program, Plus Additional Biennial Program Offerings

Biennial Program Includes Month-Long Series of Exhibitions, Screenings, and Events; Site-Specific Installations by Chris Engman and Mamma Andersson; Exhibition by Akram Zaatari; Performance by Teju Cole and Composer Vijay Iyer; Talk with Miranda July; and Keynote Address by Clément Chéroux

Additional Highlighted Artists to the 2018 FotoFocus Biennial Include Gillian Wearing, Mickalene Thomas, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Deana Lawson, Abbas Kiarostami, Hank Willis Thomas, Raquel André, and Ann Hamilton

(Cincinnati, OH — July 26, 2018) — FotoFocus, the Cincinnati-based non-profit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art, is proud to announce new programming details for the fourth FotoFocus Biennial—the largest biennial of its kind in America. The FotoFocus Biennial takes place this October, across more participating venues than ever, spanning over 80 museums, galleries, and universities across Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton, and Columbus, Ohio, and featuring over 250 artists, curators, and educators.
This year’s theme, Open Archive, examines the fundamental need to preserve photographs and to tell stories through their collection, organization, and interpretation, and explores the centrality of photography and lens-based art to modernism.

In addition to the main program of exhibitions and events curated by FotoFocus, new programming details for 2018 include a solo exhibition by Gillian Wearing, two exhibitions from Mickalene Thomas (one curated by the artist), portraits by renowned Cincinnati-based music photographer Michael Wilson, and other exhibitions that explore global conflict and social justice.

Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus Executive Director, says, “In addition to so many internationally recognized artists, I’m particularly excited about the historical photography exhibitions that explore, specifically, Cincinnati’s social history and architectural past through archives. We’re pleased to see the depth of history being brought to bear on contemporary life.”

Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Artistic Director, says, “We’re excited to present a broader range of voices this year, with lots of guest curators, artists working in different mediums, and historical as well as contemporary shows. Archives are such a vital aspect of our lives.”

**FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL PROGRAM**

The FotoFocus Biennial Program Week is the heart of the Biennial and establishes the theme of Open Archive, which unites the broader programming. Highlights include:

**Thursday, October 4, 2018**

- Keynote address at the Taft Museum of Art by Clément Chéroux, SFMOMA’s Senior Curator of Photography, drawing from his recent major exhibition of Walker Evans. 7-8 PM

**Friday, October 5, 2018**

- Conversation with artist Akram Zaatari and Eva Respini of the ICA, Boston, at the Contemporary Arts Center. 7-8 PM

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

- FotoFocus Biennial Symposium at Memorial Hall. 10:30 AM - 4:45 PM

*For full schedule please visit the FotoFocus website*
Including:
— Painter Mamma Andersson in conversation with Kevin Moore. 12 PM
— Performance at FotoFocus ArtHub: *Mid-Day Ghost* by INTERMEDIO. 1 PM
— Curator and artist panels throughout the day. Highlights include: panel moderated by Ulrike Meyer Stump with Anne McCauley and Ed Juler (*No Two Alike*); panel moderated by Carissa Barnard with artists Jimmy Baker, Chris Engman, Mike Jacobs, Sheida Soleimani, and Sigrid Viir (*Wide Angle: Photography Out of Bounds*); comment by Paul Roth of Ryerson Image Centre; panel moderated by Kevin Moore with Peter Barberie and Julia Van Haaften (*From Paris to New York*)

- Performance of *Blind Spot*, a new interdisciplinary collaboration between writer and photographer Teju Cole and acclaimed composer and pianist Vijay Iyer, at Memorial Hall. 5 - 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 7, 2018

- Conversation with artist and writer, Teju Cole, and Drew Klein, FotoFocus Guest Curator and Contemporary Arts Center Performing Arts Director at the Mercantile Library. 12 - 1:00 PM
- Conversation with filmmaker, artist, and writer Miranda July about her archive project *Joanie 4 Jackie* with Kelly Gallagher at the Woodward Theater. 6 - 7:30 PM
- FotoFocus at The Mini: *Cinema and Archive* at The Mini Microcinema. A selection of films from the month-long screening program. 12 - 5:30 PM

*More details to be announced and are subject to change*

FOTOFOCUS-CURATED EXHIBITIONS

For the first time in the Biennial’s history, every exhibition floor of the Zaha Hadid-designed Contemporary Arts Center will include exhibitions curated by FotoFocus.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

Mamma Andersson
*Memory Banks*
*October 5, 2018 - February 10, 2019*

A solo exhibition by Swedish painter Mamma Andersson highlighting her physical photographic archive. Andersson will create a large new painting on-site for the biennial. Curated by Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Artistic Director.
Akram Zaatari

*The Fold: Space, time and the image*

*October 5, 2018 - February 10, 2019*

Acclaimed Lebanese artist Akram Zaatari combines the roles of image-maker, archivist, curator, filmmaker, and critical theorist to explore the performative role photography plays in fashioning identity. Guest curated by Steven Matijcio, Curator, Contemporary Arts Center.

No Two Alike: Karl Blossfeldt, Francis Bruguière, Thomas Ruff

*September 21, 2018 - January 13, 2019*

This exhibition restages the 1929 exhibition of plant photographs by the German sculptor Karl Blossfeldt (1865—1932) and photographs of cut-paper abstractions and multiple exposures by the American photographer Francis Bruguière (1879—1945). The works are in dialogue with Thomas Ruff’s
contemporary photographic abstractions. Guest curated by Ulrike Meyer Stump, Photography Historian and Lecturer at the Zurich University of the Arts.


TAFT MUSEUM OF ART

Paris to New York: Photographs by Eugène Atget and Berenice Abbott

*October 4, 2018 - January 20, 2019*

A historical exhibition based on the encounter during the 1920s of young American photographer Berenice Abbott and the elderly French photographer Eugène Atget, two pioneering street photographers. Curated by Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Artistic Director.
WESTON ART GALLERY

Chris Engman

_Prospect and Refuge_

_August 31 - November 18, 2018_

L.A.-based artist Chris Engman creates a new site-specific installation for the Biennial, accompanied by a selection of his mind-bending photographic constructions of landscapes. Curated by Carissa Barnard, FotoFocus Deputy Director.

Wide Angle: Photography Out of Bounds

_Sepetember 21 - November 18, 2018_

THE MINI MICROCINEMA

FotoFocus at The Mini: Cinema and Archive
October 2018
A month-long film series guest curated by C. Jacqueline Wood, Director, The Mini Microcinema. 40 screenings throughout October by filmmakers including Stephanie Barber, Dan Browne, Cheryl Dunn, Vanessa Haroutunian, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, and more. *For full schedule please visit the FotoFocus website*

OTHER BIENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

Life: Gillian Wearing
October 5 - December 30, 2018
A major exhibition of work by the Turner Prize-winning British conceptual artist.
DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and companion exhibition tête-à-tête
October 20, 2018 - January 13, 2019

A solo presentation of Mickalene Thomas’s iconic photographs, alongside an exhibition she has curated of artists that have inspired her. Artists in tête-à-tête include Renée Cox, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Deana Lawson, and Carrie May Weems, among others. Organized by Aperture Foundation.
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY

Michael Wilson: They Knew Not My Name, and I Knew Not Their Faces
September 7, 2018 – December 31, 2018
The renowned music industry photographer, Michael Wilson, turns his camera on Cincinnati residents in this series of black-and-white un-choreographed and impromptu portraits.
21C MUSEUM HOTEL

*Truth or Dare: A Reality Show*

*October 19, 2018 – August 5, 2019*

This group show features artists that utilize illusion to entice, entertain, and explore the slippery terrain between fact and fiction, presence and absence, reality and imagination.

---

*WAVE POOL*

*Social Medium: Photography as a Tool for Community Collaboration*

*September 15 – November 10, 2018*

Exhibition highlights photography as a medium for social change in communities.
FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL 2018 PARTICIPANTS

Artists featured in this year’s FotoFocus Biennial participating venues include Derrick Adams, Diane Arbus, Liu Bolin, Chivas Clem, Nancy Ford Cones, Robert Frank, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Rebecca Hackemann, Lyle Ashton Harris, Whitney Hubbs, Wing Young Huie, Chris Johnson, Isaac Julien, Kelly Gallagher, Katy Grannan, Deana Lawson, Jason Lazarus, Irving Penn, Tyler Shields, Malick Sidibe, Xaviera Simmons, Kamal Sinclair, Bayeté Ross Smith, Question Bridge with Hank Willis Thomas, Mickalene Thomas, Gillian Wearing, Carrie Mae Weems, and Michael Wilson.

Over 80 participating venues including Cincinnati Art Museum, Columbus Museum of Art, Wave Pool, The Dayton Art Institute, 21c Museum Hotel, Mercantile Library, Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum, and galleries at the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University, Wright State University, and Xavier University.

Full FotoFocus Biennial Program and artist list available at www.fotofocusbiennial.org.

ABOUT FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based non-profit arts organization that collaborates to present and support photography and lens-based projects that are accessible, enriching, and engaging to a diverse public. Since
2010, the organization has engaged art and educational institutions throughout the region to support and expand the cultural dialogue around the medium that has come to define our time.

With an emphasis on intellectually and academically rigorous programs, the organization provides uniquely enriching access to lens-based art, film, and practices inspired by photography. Signature programming includes FotoFocus Biennial, FotoFocus Symposium, and FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series.

FotoFocus has collaborated with hundreds of organizations, curators, academics, and artists to present more than 600 exhibitions and programs, having contributed funding for the majority. The organization has brought hundreds of internationally-renowned photographers to the Greater Cincinnati region, including Doug Aitken, Tina Barney, Jo Ann Callis, Gregory Crewdson, Thomas Demand, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, Roe Ethridge, Larry Fink, Paul Graham, Barbara Kasten, Todd Hido, Michael Kenna, Zoe Leonard, David Benjamin Sherry, Laurie Simmons, Alec Soth, Doug + Mike Starn, Joyce Tenneson, and John Waters.

CONNECT:
WEBSITE: www.fotofocusbiennial.org
TWITTER: @fotofocuscincy
INSTAGRAM: @fotofocuscincinnati
FACEBOOK: @FotoFocusCincinnati
HASHTAG: #FotoFocus #FotoFocus2018

PRESS CONTACTS:
Marcella Zimmermann
Vice President, Cultural Counsel
marcella@culturalcounsel.com

Jill Robinson
Account Executive, Cultural Counsel
jill@culturalcounsel.com