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FotoFocus: Biennial exhibit at host of Greater Cincinnati venues highlights art in pictures



FotoFocus Biennial 2014 celebrates the art of photography all over Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. (Photo from RCN)

By Jackie Demaline
Special to KyForward

Welcome to photography as art and ideas.

During October, FotoFocus Biennial 2014 celebrates photography and lens-based art throughout the region at almost 50 venues including major museums, universities, galleries and even restaurants.

Several FotoFocus major exhibits are on view in Northern Kentucky among a long list of special exhibitions, lectures, panel discussions, screenings and performances throughout the month.

A monster weekend in and around Memorial Hall in Over-the-Rhine is set for Oct. 8–12. For everything you ever wanted to know – and there's a lot – visit [fotofocusbiennial](http://fotofocusbiennial.com). Click "Participating Venues" for a quick index of locations and exhibits.

Here's a look at FotoFocus in Northern Kentucky, followed by a handful of shows worth your time in Cincinnati. They're listed in alphabetical order by venue:

Behringer-Crawford Museum

Through a selection of images taken by local photojournalists working for *The Kentucky Post*, *The Kentucky Enquirer* and the *Associated Press*, the exhibit *50 Years of Photojournalism in Northern Kentucky 1960-2010: Winter Edition* celebrates Northern Kentucky life and culture during the winter season.



These iconic library lions are re-translated from film to ceramic in The Carnegie exhibit. (Photo from RCN)

The exhibit runs from Oct. 4 to Jan. 18 at 1600 Montague Rd. in Devou Park in Covington. For more information, [click here](#) or call 859-491-4003. An opening reception tonight will be from 6-8 p.m.

The Carnegie

A new permanent exhibit called *Grand Theft: Guy Michael Davis and Katie Parker* opens Oct. 19. The two-part installation uses public spaces in The Carnegie to exhibit re-translations of artworks and images. Don't look for a traditional photograph. Davis and Parker work in ceramic media, using both high tech and low tech three-dimensional scanning processes to "catch" famous works from around the country like the iconic marble Library Lions that greet visitors to The New York Public Library.

The exhibit at 1028 Scott Blvd. in Covington will open with a reception on Oct. 19 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and will include a tour by Davis, Parker and exhibitions director Matt Distel. For more information, [click here](#) or call 859-431-2030.

Northern Kentucky University

Work by award-winning *National Geographic* photographers Michael "Nick" Nichols and Joel Sartore is on exhibit in the NKU Main Art Gallery in the Fine Arts Center on the third floor. *The Short Happy Life of the Serengeti Lion* and *The Photo Ark* can be seen through Oct. 24.

The photographs address issues of conservation, ecology and animal behavior in different ways. For the lion, Nichols uses "infrared, a robot-controlled mini-tank for eye-level views and a tiny, camera-carrying helicopter" to capture images. Sartore's *Photo Ark* is intended to "document biodiversity, show what's at stake and to get people to care while there's still time." For more information, [click here](#) or call 859-572-5910.

Both photographers have offered NKU students in visual arts and biological sciences the opportunity to train and work as docents in a trans-disciplinary collaboration. Gallery director David Knight says he's excited about involving the whole campus with course work as well as high school and elementary students who are scheduled to tour the exhibit. "We hope that many who may not normally go into the galleries may pay a visit this month," he says.



*Vivian Maier took this picture in 1954 in New York.
(Photo from VM/Facebook)*

Nichols will give a free public lecture on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. and Sartore will speak on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m., both in Greaves Concert Hall on the NKU campus.

Thomas More College

Photographer Laura Hartford's images of the birth and nature of photography – *Shadows of Lacock* – are on exhibit from Oct. 3 through the end of the month in the Eva G. Farris Gallery on campus. The exhibit is an exploration of the calotype process which allowed photos to "capture the passage of time," says Hartford.

The main images were created during a month-long residence at Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, England, the home of the calotype's inventor William Henry Fox Talbot. Hartford will give a free public lecture on Oct. 24 at 3 p.m. in the Science Lecture Hall in the TMC Library. There will be a reception at 4 p.m. following the talk in the gallery which is also located in the TMC Library. For more information, [click here](#) or call 859-341-5800.

Three **Cincinnati exhibits** to consider are:

Blue Roots and Uncommon Wealth: the Kentucky Photographs of Carey Gough and Guy Mendes will be on display from Oct. 3 to Jan. 25 at the Iris BookCafe and Gallery at 1331 Main St. in Cincinnati. For more information, [click here](#) or call 513-381-2665. An opening night party tonight from 7-10 p.m. at Mr. Pitiful's at 1323 Main St. in Cincinnati will feature slides of photographs, videos and musical performances by Ben Sollee and The Tillers. Gough will speak on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. and Mendes on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. along with a brief musical performance by Jay Bolotin.

Paris Night & Day: Masterworks of Photography from Atget to Man Ray will feature iconic images of Paris from the close of the 19th century to the Surrealism period of the 1930s. Included are the works of Eugène Atget, Jacques-Henri Lartigue, Brassai, Ilse Bing, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Bill Brandt, André Kertész and Man Ray. The works can be seen at the Taft Museum of Art at 316 Pike St. in Cincinnati from Oct. 3 to Jan. 11. Admission is \$4-\$10 and free on Sundays.

Vivian Maier: A Quiet Pursuit will be on display through Nov. 1 at The Violin Shop at 1400 Elm St. in Cincinnati. Maier was a nanny for most of her life and used her camera mostly in Chicago and New York to shoot street scenes. In 2007, John Maloof made a posthumous discovery of tens of thousands of negatives which almost became a documentary entitled *Finding Vivian Maier*. This collection is mostly of self-portraits. To learn more, [click here](#)

Jackie Demaline is an arts contributor in the Greater Cincinnati area and contributed this story to The River City News.