So Much Photography: Don’t Miss These Northern Kentucky Exhibits

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Welcome to photography as art-and-ideas.

During October, FotoFocus, Biennial 2014 celebrates the art of photography and lens-based art throughout the region, at almost fifty venues including major museums and universities, in 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 http://www.fotofocusbiennial.org/. 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


THE CARNEGIE


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,' David and Parker work in ceramic media, using both high tech and low tech three-dimensional scanning processes to 'catch' famous works from around the U.S., like the iconic marble Library Lions that greet visitors to The New York Public Library. Opening reception: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 19, an exhibit tour with Davis, Parker and exhibitions director Matt Distel begins at 11 a.m.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY


Award-winning National Geographic photographers Michael 'Nick' Nichols and Joel Sartore both address hose work conservation, ecology and animal behavior in distinctive ways. For Serengeti Lion, Nichols uses "infrared, a robot controlled mini-tank for eye-level views and a tiny, camera-carrying electric helicopter" to capture captivating images. The goal of Sartore's The Photo Ark is to "document biodiversity, show what's at stake and to get people to care while there's still time."
Both Nichols and Sartore offered NKU students of visual arts and biological sciences an opportunity to train and work as docents in a trans-disciplinary collaboration.

Gallery director David Knight is excited about involving the whole campus with course work as well as high school and elementary school students scheduled to tour. With and giant banners, photo banners mounted around the NKU campus, “We hope that many who may not normally go into the galleries may pay a visit this coming month.”

Artist Talks: 7 p.m. Oct. 15, Michael Nichols; 7 p.m. Oct. 16, Joel Sartore. Both appearances will be in Greaves Concert Hall in the Fine Arts Center and are free and open to the public.

THOMAS MORE COLLEGE


Photographer Laura Hartford's images are a reflection on the nature and birth of photography. An exploration of the calotype process which allowed photos to 'capture the passage of time,' the exhibit's central images were created during a month-long residency Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, England, the home of the calotype's inventor William Henry Fox Talbot.

Artist Talk: 3 p.m. Oct. 24. Laura Hartford, Science Lecture Hall, Library Building. Followed immediately by an artist's reception at 4 p.m. in the Eva G. Farris Gallery, also in the Library. Free and open to the public.

ALSO CONSIDER:

Blue Roots and Uncommon Wealth; the Kentucky Photographs of Carey Gough and Guy Mendes, Oct. 3-Jan. 25, Iris BookCafe and Gallery, 1331 Main St., Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati

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A visual homage to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Bluegrass State, by two generations of artists, Guy Mendez’s photographs are landscapes and portraits, often of authors and musicians, gathered from his life in Kentucky from the 1970s to the present. Carey Gough photographs the sites of Kentucky’s rich heritage of old time and bluegrass music. Opening night party: 7-10 p.m. Oct. 3, Mr. Pitiful's, 1323 Main St. Improvisational cello performance by Ben Sollee with Guy Mendez’ projected photographs plus videos by Carey Gough with musical performance by The Tillers.
Artist Talks: 2 p.m. Oct 5; Carey Gough; 2 p.m. Oct. 19, Guy Mendes (including brief musical performance by Jay Bolotin)


Iconic images of Paris from the end of the 19th century to the Surrealist visions of the 1930s including vintage prints by Eugène Atget, Jacques-Henri Lartigue, Brassai, Ilse Bing, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Bill Brandt, André Kertész and Man Ray.

Vivian Maier: A Quiet Pursuit, through Nov. 1. The Violin Shop, 1400 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati. Free.

Maier (1926-2009) was a nanny for most of her adult life, while also using her camera to shoot street scenes, mostly in Chicago and New York. The posthumous discovery in 2007 of tens of thousands of negatives by John Maloof led to the fascinating documentary "Finding Vivian Maier" (a must-see before visiting the show). A selection of mostly self-portraits will be on view. Get to know her first: www.vivianmaier.com

-Jackie Demaline, RCN Arts