



Our guide: All eyes on FotoFocus

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(Photo: Provided)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- For a full schedule of exhibitions and events, visit www.fotofocusbiennial.org.

There is so much happening during the five-day festival that anchors FotoFocus Biennial 2014 that it's nearly impossible to offer a comprehensive guide.

That's just part of the monthslong focus in the Cincinnati-area region on photography as art.

FotoFocus was created to celebrate all forms of lens-based art by businessman/photographer Tom Schiff; James Crump, former chief curator and curator of photography at the Cincinnati Art

Museum; and Raphaela Platow, director and chief curator of the Contemporary Arts Center. The first edition of the biennial project was in 2012.

"Photography is the medium of our time," Crump said then. "We all have phones in our pockets with cameras; a large part of the population engages with online digital content that's photo-derived. Given this democratization of technology, and photography's ubiquity, it has become the most accessible medium, the perfect bridge to bring people and art together."

That's never been more true.

Wednesday through Oct. 12, photo, film and art practitioners and experts will join with local curators and photographers at Memorial Hall to discuss photography, film and ideas – old, new and emerging.

Important exhibitions (including those that feature the work of David Benjamin Sherry and Vivian Maier) have popped up in new spaces in Over-the-Rhine.

The most democratic of exhibitions, FotoGram@ArtHub, in a Jose Garcia-designed structure in Washington Park, will feature Instagram photos with the hashtag #fotofocus2014.

Once the festival portion is over, Cincinnatians will have time to more leisurely explore the exhibitions, and attend more lectures and artist events throughout the region. Most exhibitions continue through October, while others are here until early next year. ■

Kevin Moore, artistic director and curator for FotoFocus, has attracted some big names to Cincinnati to participate in a wide-ranging discussion of lens-based art. Each day starts with a film, and response to the film. Here are some of the key speakers:

Wednesday

Martha Colburn: Colburn, the filmmaker/artist/musician, who will be in Cincinnati for the duration of FotoFocus, has created a part-improvisational performance piece with film and musicians that begins at 8 p.m. Colburn is also on a film panel Sunday.

Thursday

The group will discuss Vivian Maier's work and life beginning at 5 p.m.:

Deborah Bell: A New York gallerist and former head of photographs at Christie's in New York.

Howard Greenberg: The New York gallery owner is one of the world's most known photography dealers. He represents the archives of one-time nanny Vivian Maier, whose work was discovered posthumously.

Richard B. Woodward: New York art critic who has written for the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Friday

Jeff L. Rosenheim: Curator in charge of the Department of Photography at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will give the keynote address on his landmark exhibition and book, "Photography and the American Civil War," 6 p.m.

David Benjamin Sherry: Sherry is a Los Angeles-based photographer who is one of today's stars. In addition to his exhibition in Cincinnati, Sherry recently opened a solo exhibition at Danziger Gallery in New York. One of Sherry's paintings was the cover of a recent New York Times Magazine.

Elizabeth Siegel: The associate curator of photography at the Art Institute of Chicago will participate in a discussion with Sherry, 4:30 p.m.

Elena Dorfman: Well-known photographer, based in Los Angeles, talks with Alice Gray Stites, 21c Museum Hotels museum director, 3 p.m.

Saturday

John Waters: The noted filmmaker ("Hairspray," "Pink Flamingoes," "Polyester" and more) performs his show "This Filthy World." Doors open at 6:30 p.m., performance at 8 p.m.

Ivan Shaw: Shaw, photography director at Vogue, will give a response to the film "Bill Cunningham New York" at 1 p.m. and take part in a discussion about Instagram culture at 5 p.m. Shaw is one of FotoFocus' invited Instagrammers.

Sunday

Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell: The Bidwells are philanthropists and contemporary art collectors from Akron who are helping transform the communities of Akron and Cleveland through artistic endeavors. Fred Bidwell, a former advertising executive, recently completed a stint as interim director of the Cleveland Art Museum. They talk about their work at 2:30 p.m. ■

Highly recommended outside OTR

Open now at TAFT MUSEUM OF ART: "Paris Night & Day: Masterworks of Photography from Atget to Man Ray," images of Paris from the end of the 19th century to the Surrealist visions of the 1930s. \$4 to \$10, free on Sundays. Through Jan. 11, 2015. 316 Pike St., Downtown.

At CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM, starting Saturday: "Eyes on the Street," featuring street photography by 10 major artists working in the genre. Free. Through Jan. 4, 2015. 953 Eden Park Drive.

At SKIRBALL MUSEUM at Hebrew Union College, starting Oct. 22: George S. Rosenthal, Daniel J. Ransohoff and Ben Rosen: Documenting Cincinnati's Neighborhoods. In 1957, Rosenthal (1923-1967) was commissioned by the Cincinnati Historical Society to document the architectural history of the West End before the construction of Interstate 75. Ransohoff (1927-1993) created a photographic record of Cincinnati's disadvantaged neighborhoods across the city, including the West End, while Rosen (1920-2000) captured life in the city during changing times. The exhibition runs through Dec. 21. 3101 Clifton Ave.

48 hours (or so) at FotoFocus

Here's a sample itinerary for a weekend full of FotoFocus – all within walking distance of Memorial Hall. Craft your own itinerary with the schedule at www.fotofocusbiennial.org. Memorial Hall events are general admission, first-come, first-serve. Memorial Hall is at 1225 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine, across from Washington Park and adjacent to Music Hall.

Friday

3:15 p.m.: Get an early start to your weekend at the landscape exhibition featuring the brilliantly colored photographs in “**David Benjamin Sherry: Western Romance**,” 1500 Elm St., open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

4:30 p.m.: Head to Memorial Hall to hear a discussion between Los Angeles-based landscape photographer Sherry and Art Institute of Chicago curator **Elizabeth Siegel**.

Between Memorial Hall events, visit FotoGram@ArtHub, a structure erected in Washington Park with a large screen of Instagram photos, or the book sale at Memorial Hall. (A FotoFocus catalog is also available for purchase.)

6 p.m.: Hear **Jeff L. Rosenheim**, curator in charge of the Department of Photography at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and one of FotoFocus' biggest names, speak on photography and the Civil War.

Evening: Catch a preview of Hollywood photographer **Tyler Shields'** too-hot-for-Miller Gallery photographs from his new series, “Provocateur,” on display at **Obscura's Jim Thompson Room** starting Friday, 645 Walnut St. Down the street, stop by the **21c Museum Hotel** for a look at its latest exhibition, “Hybridity: The New Frontier.”

(Two great things about 21c: The museum is open 24/7, and it's always free.)

Saturday

11 a.m.: Visit the “**Vivian Maier: A Quiet Pursuit**” exhibition, curated by Kevin Moore, at 1400 Elm St., a pop-up exhibit space. (If you can see this Thursday, even better; Maier's gallerist Howard Greenberg is part of a panel at Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. Thursday. But if you're doing a FotoFocus weekend, this exhibition is a must-see.)

1 p.m.: See “Bill Cunningham New York,” a roughly 90-minute film about the great New York Times fashion/street photographer, with a response from **Ivan Shaw** at Memorial Hall.

3 p.m.: Head to **Lightborne Studios**, 212 E. 14th St., to watch the short film portion of "Screenings."

5 p.m.: Back at Memorial Hall, **Ivan Shaw** leads a discussion about Instagram and the FotoGram@ArtHub exhibition with architect **José García** and Chronicle Books publisher **Nion McEvoy**. (Alternatively, stay at Lightborne for the rest of "Screenings.")

7 p.m.: After you've seen "Screenings," your ready for "**Stills**" – a Kevin Moore-curated exhibition in dialogue with his "Screenings." Michael Lowe Gallery, 905 Vine St. (open till 8 p.m.)

8 p.m.: **John Waters** performs his one-man show "This Filthy World." The noted filmmaker/artist/author also has a new book, "Carsick," about his cross-country hitchhiking trip. Doors opens at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday

11 a.m.: The Contemporary Arts Center features the work of photo-due **Taiyo Onorato** and **Nico Krebs**. You'll see cameras made out of books (and a turtle shell) along with their playful take on lens-based art that asks us to look more closely. Admission, normally \$7.50, is free with FotoFocus Passport. There are other exhibits, too, and if you haven't been to 21c, stop by to see "Hybridity."

1 p.m.: Head back to Memorial Hall for a forum lead by the University of Cincinnati art professor **Jordan Tate**, with **Aaron Cowan** of the DAAP Galleries and New York photographer **Rachel de Joode**. Tate, a recent Fulbright Fellow, looks at photography from a more interdisciplinary and experimental take than most.

2:30 p.m.: Hear **Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell** discuss projects that invest in art and community in Cleveland. Fred Bidwell sits on the board of the Cleveland Art Museum and recently completed a stint as interim director.

3:30 p.m.: Stick around Memorial Hall for a discussion of film with **Martha Colburn**, **Kristen Erwin**, **Todd Herzog** and **Kevin Moore**.

Catch it while you can

Apart from the programming at Memorial Hall and the FotoGram@ArtHub in Washington Park, there are a handful of exhibitions or events you must act quickly to see.

ENDING OCT. 12: At **Lightborne Studios:** "Screenings," a total of four hours of long and short films. They can be viewed in two rooms, each in a two-hour loop. "Screenings" debuted at Paris Photo Los Angeles this spring, 212 E. 14th St., Over-the-Rhine.

ENDING OCT. 19: At **DAAP Galleries:** "The Sochi Project: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus." University of Cincinnati, Reed Gallery, 2624 Clifton Ave.

ENDING OCT. 24: At **Northern Kentucky University:** National Geographic photographers "Nick" Nichols and Joel Sartore, "The Short Happy Life of the Serengeti Lion" and "The Photo Ark," 100 Louie B. Nunn Drive, Highland Heights.

ENDING OCT. 24: At the **Art Academy of Cincinnati:** "Migrantes and Aftermath" by Joseph Rodriguez and his former student, Lili Holzer-Glier, 1212 Jackson St., Over-the-Rhine. ■

Talk to me

A calendar of free lectures, discussions and artist events in the next five weeks.

THURSDAY, 5-6 p.m.: **Elena Dorfman.** Wright State University, Robert & Elaine Stein Galleries, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton. Dorfman's exhibition is at Wright State but she will be in Cincinnati for a Friday panel. Her work can be seen at 21c Museum Hotel.

OCT. 12, 2 p.m.: Gallery talk by **Melvin Grier**, former Cincinnati Post photographer. Art Beyond Boundaries, 1410 Main St., Over-the-Rhine.

OCT. 15, 7 p.m.: Michael "**Nick**" **Nichols**, "The Short Happy Life of the Serengeti Lion." Northern Kentucky University, Greaves Concert Hall, 1 Louie B. Nunn Drive, Highland Heights.

OCT. 16, 7 p.m.: **Joel Sartore**, "The Photo Ark." NKU, Greaves Concert Hall, 1 Louie B. Nunn Drive, Highland Heights.

OCT. 16, 6-8 p.m.: **Richard Renaldi**, "Touching Strangers." 21c Museum Hotel, 609 Walnut St., Downtown. Reserve tickets at www.21cmuseumhotels.com/cincinnati/.

OCT. 16, 7 p.m.: **Danielle Julian Norton**, "Fourth Wall." Weston Art Gallery, 650 Walnut St., Downtown.

OCT. 17, 7-9 p.m.: **Dhani Jones**, opening and meet-the-artist event. Miller Gallery, 2715 Erie Ave., Hyde Park.

OCT. 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Reception for Grand Theft: **Katie Parker & Guy Michael Davis**, The Carnegie, 1208 Scott Blvd., Covington.

OCT. 19, 2 p.m.: **Guy Mendes**, Iris Bookcafe and Gallery, 1331 Main St., Over-the-Rhine.

OCT. 19, 2-4 p.m.; Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m.; and Oct. 21, noon: **Nate Larson**, Mount St. Joseph/Studio San Giuseppe Gallery, 5701 Delhi Road, Delhi Twp.

OCT. 23, 7 p.m.: **Paul Graham**, whose work is part of "Eyes on the Street" at Cincinnati Art Museum, 953 Eden Park Drive. Reserve at 513-721-2787.

OCT. 24, 3 p.m.: **Laura Hartford**, "Shadows of Lacock," Thomas More College, Eva G. Faris Gallery, 333 Thomas More Pkwy., Crestview Hills.

OCT. 24, 7-10 p.m.: **Tyler Shields**, opening and meet-the-artist event. Miller Gallery, 2715 Erie Ave., Hyde Park.

OCT. 25, 2 p.m., Kennedy Heights Arts Center, 6546 Montgomery Road, and **Nov. 8, 2:30 p.m.**, Taft Museum, 318 Pike St., Downtown: **Michael Keating**, "Cincinnati Shadow and Light."

NOV. 12, 7 p.m.: "The West End: Looking Back, Looking Forward," discussion at Hebrew Union College, Mayerson Hall, 3101 Clifton Ave.

If you go

Many events and exhibitions are free, but **Memorial Hall** panels, lectures and the screenings at Lightborne Studios require a FotoFocus passport.

There are three levels available: **Student, \$15; Flash, \$25** (programming, exhibitions and some receptions); and **Zoom, \$75** (in addition to Flash access, you'll be able to attend exclusive receptions at the Taft Museum of Art and Cincinnati Art Museum).

For more information and to purchase passports, visit www.fotofocusbiennial.org.

• Share your **Instagram** photos from FotoFocus with **#fotofocus2014**.