FotoFocus starts planning for 2016 biennial

Organizers of FotoFocus already are planning the next FotoFocus Biennial for 2016.

Memorial Hall programming for the second FotoFocus ended Monday, though some Cincinnati-curated exhibitions haven’t yet opened.

"There were amazing comments," said Kevin Moore, New York-based curator and artistic director. "All of the participants, including the out-of-town artists, curators and press, to the local contingent, were very impressed by the shows and program and enjoyed meeting each other. It felt a little like a retreat."

The program featured filmmaker John Waters ("Hairspray") and Jeff L. Rosenheim, curator in charge of the Department of Photography at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

What’s known or under consideration for the next edition of FotoFocus:

- Moore will return in his role for another two-year cycle.
- FotoFocus could offer a smaller program in October on off years to keep momentum going, said executive director Mary Ellen Goekes.
- Adjustments to the schedule likely will be made to reduce the number of weekday or daytime events, which were scheduled mainly so local students could attend. Goekes and her team were disappointed in low attendance by students from area colleges, even though FotoFocus spent time in outreach to get them there. Student passes were $15 for five days of programs and entrance to all galleries and exhibitions.

"What we brought was the equivalent of a trip to New York, or Europe, in terms of shows and speakers," Moore said. "They might just need to be told a few times before they realize how good it is."

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