

# FOTOFOCUS

## FOTOFOCUS PLEDGES 2020 BIENNIAL BUDGET TO EMERGENCY ART GRANT

### Gifts \$800,000 to Greater Cincinnati Art Community to Help During COVID-19 Crisis

(Cincinnati, OH — April 28, 2020) — **FotoFocus**, the non-profit arts organization behind America's largest photography biennial, announces today that in lieu of presenting the fifth **FotoFocus Biennial**, originally slated for October 2020, it will pledge its Biennial budget to financially support the Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton and Columbus, Ohio art communities during the coronavirus pandemic.

FotoFocus will grant an immediate and unrestricted **\$800,000** to over 100 Participating Venues and Partners that were selected to present as part of the 2020 FotoFocus Biennial. These collaborators work every other year towards making the FotoFocus Biennial a success, including 8 of the region's most prestigious arts venues: **Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Art Museum, Taft Museum of Art, Wave Pool, and Weston Art Gallery** (Cincinnati, OH); **Columbus Museum of Art** (Columbus, OH); **Dayton Art Institute** (Dayton, OH); and **The Carnegie** (Covington, KY). The \$800,000 is inclusive of all grants that would have originally gone to these venues for Biennial programming, plus an additional 10% for each grant in honor of FotoFocus's tenth anniversary. FotoFocus is committed to supporting the community and local business partners who help bring the Biennial to fruition.

As part of this pledge, FotoFocus will support 15 academic institutions with grants totalling over \$177,000, including: **Art Academy of Cincinnati, Miami University, University of Cincinnati, and Xavier University** (Cincinnati, OH); **Columbus College of Art and Design** (Columbus, OH); **Wright State University** (Dayton, OH); **Northern Kentucky University** and **Thomas More University** (KY). The region also has an impressive number of smaller arts venues that will be supported by the FotoFocus grant including: **Art Beyond Boundaries, Basketshop, Clay Street Press, Kennedy Heights Art Center, Manifest Gallery, PAR-Projects, and Visionaries + Voices** (Cincinnati, OH); and **The Contemporary Dayton** (Dayton, OH).

"After many discussions about how we should move forward with this year's FotoFocus Biennial, we kept coming back to the same conclusion—the best thing we can do to help the arts survive this crisis is reconfigure our grantmaking. We are about to move into our second decade and we need our community with us. We hope this money will help our partners get by at the time they need it most," said **Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus Executive Director**.

"The theme *light&* is as timely as ever: our response to this crisis, and to going forward as an organization, is to choose hopefulness over isolation, support over attrition. We are choosing the silver lining, which is to reaffirm our creative community and to use the time, and funding, to create an even brighter future," said **Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator**.

FotoFocus will continue to support its ongoing commitments to regional, national, and international artists and move several of its artist partnerships from the 2020 Biennial forward to 2022. The next FotoFocus Biennial will take place in **October 2022** with a new theme. The Program Week is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 – Saturday, October 8, 2022.

## **VENUE GRANTS**

1305 Gallery  
1628 Ltd  
21c Museum Hotel  
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery  
Antioch College: Herndon Gallery  
Art Academy of Cincinnati: Convergys Gallery  
Art Academy of Cincinnati: Ruthe G. Pearlman Gallery  
Art Beyond Boundaries Gallery  
ArtWorks  
The Baker Hunt Art & Cultural Center  
BasketShop  
Beeler Gallery at Columbus College of Art & Design  
Behringer-Crawford Museum  
Blockfort Gallery  
The Blue House Gallery  
Brazee Gallery at Brazee Street Studios  
CampSITE Social Sculpture Park  
The Carnegie  
Christ Church Cathedral: Gallery South  
Cincinnati Art Museum  
Cincinnati Preservation Association at the Cincinnati Museum Center  
Cincinnati State Student Lounge Gallery  
Clay Street Press and Gallery  
Clifton Cultural Arts Center  
Contemporary Art Matters  
Contemporary Arts Center  
The Contemporary Dayton  
DAAP Galleries:: Meyers Gallery, University of Cincinnati  
DAAP Galleries:: Reed Gallery, University of Cincinnati  
The Dayton Art Institute  
Dayton Society of Artists  
Dick Waller's ArtPlace  
DIY Printing  
Eisele Gallery of Fine Art  
Eva G. Farris Gallery at Thomas More University  
Evendale Cultural Arts Center  
Fitton Center for Creative Arts  
Hoffner Lodge Gallery  
i.imagine at the Purple People Bridge  
Indian Hill Gallery  
Iris BookCafé and Gallery  
Keily Gallery

**FOTOFOCUS**

Kennedy Heights Arts Center  
Ledge Gallery at the Brew House  
Lloyd Library and Museum  
The Lodge KY  
Manifest Drawing Center  
Manifest Gallery  
Memorial Hall  
Miami University Art Museum  
Miami University Center for Community Engagement  
Miami University College of Creative Arts  
Miller Gallery  
The Mohawk Gallery at Robin Imaging  
Mount St. Joseph University: Studio San Giuseppe Art Gallery  
Northern Kentucky University: Visual Arts Galleries  
Off Ludlow Gallery  
OTR Bagel Bar  
Oxford Community Arts Center  
PAR-Projects: Studeō PAR-  
PAR-Projects: The Nook  
Pendleton Street Photography  
PIQUE  
Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art  
POPPED ART  
Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum  
Redtree Art Gallery & Coffee Shop  
Rosewood Arts Centre: Rosewood Gallery  
ROY G BIV Gallery  
Ruth's Parkside Café  
Sidewinder Coffee  
Sinclair Community College: Burnell R. Roberts Triangle Gallery  
St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church: Haehnle Gallery  
Stair House  
Stivers School for the Arts: Fifth Street Gallery  
The Summit Hotel  
Taft Museum of Art  
University of Cincinnati Clermont College: Park National Bank Art Gallery  
University of Cincinnati: Tabula Rasa Gallery  
University of Dayton: Radial Gallery  
Visionaries + Voices Northside Gallery  
Wash Park Art Gallery  
Wave Pool  
The Welcome Project  
Woman's Art Club Cultural Center: The Barn  
The Woodward Theater  
Wright State University: Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries  
Xavier University Art Gallery at Gallagher Student Center  
Xavier University Art Gallery at the A.B. Cohen Center  
Xavier University Library

**FOTOFOCUS**

## **ABOUT FOTOFOCUS**

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art through exhibitions and public programming. 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. FotoFocus has collaborated with hundreds of organizations, curators, academics, and artists to present more than **700** exhibitions and programs, having contributed funding for the majority. The organization has brought hundreds of internationally-renowned photographers to the Greater Cincinnati region. Signature programming includes: **FotoFocus Biennial**, which had a record-breaking 207,000 visitors in 2018 and has presented exhibitions of work by both historic and contemporary artists such as **Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, Roe Ethridge, Zanele Muholi, Karl Blossfeldt, Francis Bruguière, Thomas Ruff, and Akram Zaatari** in Cincinnati; the **FotoFocus Symposium**, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe exhibition; and **FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**, which has brought internationally renowned artists, such as **Zoe Leonard** and **William Wegman**, to Cincinnati.

## **CONNECT**

WEBSITE: [www.fotofocus.org](http://www.fotofocus.org)

TWITTER: [@fotofocuscincy](https://twitter.com/fotofocuscincy)

INSTAGRAM: [@fotofocuscincinnati](https://www.instagram.com/fotofocuscincinnati)

FACEBOOK: [@FotoFocusCincinnati](https://www.facebook.com/FotoFocusCincinnati)

HASHTAG: #FotoFocus

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

Jill Robinson

Senior Account Executive, Cultural Counsel

[jill@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:jill@culturalcounsel.com)

Marcella Zimmermann

Vice President, Cultural Counsel

[marcella@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:marcella@culturalcounsel.com)

# **FOTOFOCUS**