

FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL  
PHOTOGRAPHY,  
THE UN-  
DOCUMENT  
OCTOBER  
2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL 2016: *PHOTOGRAPHY, THE UNDOCUMENT*

### Third Edition of Biennial Met with Critical Acclaim

FotoFocus Biennial 2016  
October 1– October 31, 2016  
Cincinnati, Ohio

[#FotoFocus2016](https://www.facebook.com/FotoFocus2016)



Biennial visitor at Zanele Muholi's *Personae* exhibition.  
Photo Credit: Ryan Elliott

**Cincinnati, OH, November 22, 2016** – The FotoFocus Biennial 2016, a month-long celebration of lens-based art in Cincinnati, Ohio, opened with strong attendance and critical acclaim. Centered around the theme of *Photography, the Undocument*, the Biennial featured over 60 exhibitions that addressed assumptions about the medium's documentary character, at venues across the Cincinnati region, ranging from major museums and institutions to independent galleries and non-profit organizations presenting a diverse range of work engaging with the topic. Now in its third edition, the FotoFocus Biennial has grown in scope and influence, drawing artists, curators and critics at the forefront of photography and lens-based work to Cincinnati for a series of discussions on the evolving role of the medium. The Biennial program was anchored by eight exhibitions curated by **FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore**, including the first US solo museum show of **Roe Ethridge's** work at the Contemporary Arts Center and solo presentations by **Zanele Muholi**, **Jackie Nickerson**, and **Robin Rhode** at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

"This year's Biennial is a milestone for the FotoFocus organization and for the city of Cincinnati. The strong community engagement, incredible response from participating venues and the ambitious curatorial programming speaks to the growing impact of the event, on both a regional and national level," said **FotoFocus Executive Director Mary Ellen Goeke**. "FotoFocus is committed to furthering the dialogue on contemporary photography, as well as lens-based practices, and to supporting exhibitions and projects that challenge, educate and inspire. It has been very rewarding to watch this event become a touchpoint for the Cincinnati creative community and a gathering place for leading luminaries in the field." Over the past six years, FotoFocus, a non-profit organization, has presented nearly 300 projects and contributed over \$1.5M in support to over 150 of those presenting partners. Through this support, FotoFocus affirms its commitment to situating Cincinnati as a burgeoning center for photography and lens-based projects. While 17 Participating Venue exhibitions remain open, initial attendance figures show that the Biennial attracted over 60,000 visitors in October. This number is expected to grow as additional venues continue to report.

The FotoFocus Biennial 2016 was officially recognized at the FotoFocus ArtHub on October 5 by **Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley**, who proclaimed October as the Month of Photography in celebration of the Biennial and its contribution to the region's creative community. The FotoFocus ArtHub: Satellite Project Space was temporarily erected in front of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which is set on the banks of the Ohio River, and hosted exhibitions and programming during the Biennial Program.

The Biennial Program, held October 6-9, examined the Biennial's theme: *Photography, the Undocument* through keynote lectures, talks and panel discussions that explored the agency of photography and its role in a rapidly shifting socio-political and economic climate.

Keynote Speaker **Roxana Marcoci**, Senior Curator of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, opened the Biennial Program with a discussion of "The Re-Representation of Louise Lawler's Work" on Thursday, October 6, exploring the manner in which documentary photography can act as a vehicle of meaning far greater than the subject of the image itself. **Roe Ethridge's** first solo museum exhibition *Nearest Neighbor* was the subject of a panel on Friday, October 7, featuring the artist and a roster of collaborators, including gallerists, designers, and models, who have played an integral role in Ethridge's career to date. Exhibiting artist **Zanele Muholi**,

accompanied by South African performing artists Andiswa Dlamini, Sebenzile Nkosi, and Thobeka Bengu expanded upon her solo exhibition, *Personae*, on view at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, with a performance held for an engaged audience.

Saturday's daytime programming delved into the nature of fact and fabrication in the photographic medium and its cultural function, including presentations from *New Slideshow* artist **William E. Jones** on the "Rejected Images of the Farm Security Administration" and **Julian Cox**, Chief Curator and Founding Curator of Photography, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, in conversation with artist **Sheila Pree Bright** discussing "American Civil Rights Then and Now."

"It was gratifying to see such a wide variety of people converge in Cincinnati to discuss photography and to make new connections among themselves and attendees from the regional community," said **FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore**. "This year's biennial felt particularly substantive, with numerous lectures and conversations centered on questions of human rights and social politics. It is exciting to see the ways in which art exhibitions can provoke real discussion of issues central to our lives."

Among the noted artists and art world professionals who attended and participated in the opening weekend programming were **Roe Ethridge; Zanele Muholi; Jackie Nickerson; Mark Ruwedel; John Divola; William E. Jones; Sebastiaan Bremer; Susan Meiselas; Mary Lucier; David Horvitz; and Sheila Pree Bright; Roxana Marcoci**, Senior Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; **Yancey Richardson**, gallerist; **Julian Cox**, Chief Curator and Founding Curator of Photography at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; **Brendan Dugan**, Gallerist and Publisher, New York; **Alice Gray Stites**, Museum Director and Chief Curator, 21c Museum Hotels, Louisville; **Andy Harman**, Production Designer; **Sam Orlofsky**, Gagosian Gallery Director; **Drew Sawyer**, William and Sarah Ross Soter Associate Curator of Photography at the Columbus Museum of Art; **Paul Moakley**, Deputy Director of Photography and Visual Enterprise at TIME; **Sophie Hackett**, Curator, Photography, Art Gallery of Ontario; **Liz Mulholland**, Partner at Andrew Kreps Gallery; **Gregory Gooding**, Collector and Partner at the New York law firm Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; **Nion McEvoy**, Collector, Chairman and CEO of Chronicle Books, San Francisco; **Calcagno Cullen**, Wave Pool; and **Kevin Moore**, Artistic Director and Curator, FotoFocus.

#### **ONGOING FOTOFOCUS EXHIBITION**

The FotoFocus exhibition, **Roe Ethridge: Nearest Neighbor**, curated by Kevin Moore at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, will be on view through **March 12, 2017**. It is the artist's first solo museum exhibition in the United States. Presenting over 15 years of photographs drawn from Ethridge's comprehensive body of work this mid-career survey documents the disparate concepts and photographic methods evident in Ethridge's expansive methodology and fluidity between the realms of commercial, fine art, and personal photography.



Opening reception for *Jackie Nickerson: August*  
Photo Credit: Ryan Elliott



Roe Ethridge, *Me and Auggie*, 2015  
Dye sublimation print on aluminum  
45 x 30 inches Courtesy of the Artist  
and Andrew Kreps gallery, New York

**Zanele Muholi: Personae, Jackie Nickerson: August, and Robin Rhode: Three Films**, will all three be on view at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center until **January 23, 2017**.

#### **FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL PARTICIPATING VENUES**

Participating Venues were open throughout the month of October with several exhibitions open until early 2017. A complete list of exhibitions and dates available at: <http://www.fotofocusbiennial.org/venues>

1305 Gallery	HudsonJones
21c Museum Hotel	i.imagine at Roebling Point Books and Coffee
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery	Iris BookCafé and Gallery
Antioch College: Herndon Gallery	Kennedy Heights Arts Center
Art Academy of Cincinnati: Pearlman Gallery and	Lloyd Library and Museum with Cincinnati Books
Convergys Gallery	Arts Society
Art Beyond Boundaries Gallery	Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing
ArtWorks at The Public Library of Cincinnati and	Center
Hamilton County: Main Branch	Mercantile Library
Behringer-Crawford Museum	Miami University Art Museum
The Betts House	Miller Gallery
BLDG	National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Braze Street Studios: C-Link Gallery	Northern Kentucky University: Visual Arts Galleries
Carl Solway Gallery	Pop Revolution Gallery
The Carnegie	Prairie
The Carnegie: Contemporary Arts Center Black Box	Robin Imaging Services
Performance Series	Sinclair Community College
Cincinnati Art Museum	Skirball Museum Cincinnati in partnership with The
Cincinnati Museum Center with Word Play and	Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education
Chase Public at Hoffner Lodge Gallery	Stivers School for the Arts: Fifth Street Gallery
Clay Street Press	Taft Museum of Art
Clifton Cultural Arts Center	Thomas More College: Eva G. Farris Gallery
Columbus Museum of Art	Wash Park Art
Contemporary Arts Center	Wave Pool
DAAP Galleries: Meyers Gallery and Reed Gallery	Wave Pool at FotoFocus ArtHub
The Dayton Art Institute	Wright State University: Gallery 263 At The Robert
Dayton Visual Arts Center	and Elaine Stein Galleries
Downtown Cincinnati, Inc.	Xavier University: Art Gallery at the A.B. Cohen
FoRealism Tribe at Frameshop	Center
	YWCA Women's Art Gallery

#### **FOTOFOCUS EXHIBITIONS CURATED BY KEVIN MOORE**

FotoFocus exhibitions curated by Kevin Moore were open throughout the month of October with several exhibitions open into 2017.

##### ***Roe Ethridge: Nearest Neighbor***

October 7, 2016 – March 12, 2017  
Contemporary Arts Center, Downtown Cincinnati

##### ***Jackie Nickerson: August***

October 1, 2016 – January 23, 2017  
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

##### ***Zanele Muholi: Personae***

October 1, 2016 – January 23, 2017  
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

##### ***Marlo Pascual: Three Works***

September 23, 2016 – November 27, 2016  
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery

##### ***New Slideshow***

October 6 - 9, 2016  
Contemporary Arts Center, Downtown Cincinnati

##### ***Robin Rhode: Three Films***

October 1, 2016 – January 23, 2017  
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

##### ***After Industry***

September 23, 2016 – November 27, 2016  
Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery

##### ***Shifting Coordinates***

September 23, 2016 – January 2, 2017  
21c Museum Hotel  
Co-curated with Alice Gray Stites

**About the Biennial**

The FotoFocus Biennial runs through the month of October throughout the greater Cincinnati region at participating museums, galleries, universities, and community organizations. It includes concentrated programming and events, including artist and curator talks, screenings, performances, and tours.

**About FotoFocus**

FotoFocus is a non-profit arts organization whose mission is to present the finest in contemporary photography and lens-based art that is artistically, intellectually, and academically rigorous, and to support programs that are accessible, educational, and enriching to a diverse public. FotoFocus celebrates and champions photography as the medium of our time and aims to encourage dialogue about the world through the art of photography.

Further information about FotoFocus can be found at <http://www.fotofocuscincinnati.org>.

Follow FotoFocus on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram via the hashtags #FotoFocus, #FotoFocus2016, and #undocument.

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