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Now a biennial, Cincinnati FotoFocus one of nation's largest photography events

Filmmaker John Waters 'performing' his documentary



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VIDEO BY WCPO

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CINCINNATI—In June of this year, the filmmaker and provocateur John Waters [published a book detailing his cross-country trek via hitch-hiking](#) . On Oct. 11, presumably arriving in Cincinnati by other means, Waters is “[performing](#)” his solo documentary , “This Filthy World,” at Memorial Hall as the marquee event of Cincinnati’s [FotoFocus Biennial 2014](#) .

Waters' appearance is somewhat misleading. With few exceptions, FotoFocus is all about fine art photography—and a lot of it. More than 50 galleries, museums, libraries and other gathering centers in and near Cincinnati are hosting pieces of FotoFocus in what has become one of the nation's most ambitious showcases for photography.

"I pitch these shows to intellectuals who know something about art and people who don't necessarily know anything about art," said Kevin Moore, an independent curator from New York City and the artistic director of FotoFocus. "It's really just to make great photography and lectures available to people in Cincinnati."

In the video above, we catch glimpses of some of the work in exhibitions Moore curated for FotoFocus and hear more about his ambitions for the program. Most of the work is contemporary, from documentary to collage-like abstractions and everything in between, though there's also a lean to the historic. Jeff Rosenheim, the head curator of photography at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, is presenting an Oct. 10 keynote address on Civil War photography. There's also an exhibition devoted to artist-made films.

The Oct. 8 opening-night event features a collaborative performance with Berlin, Germany, artist Martha Colburn paired with violinist Tatiana Berman and the Constella Ensemble.

FotoFocus debuted in 2012 through the impetus of Tom Schiff, a longtime supporter of the Cincinnati Art Museum motivated to produce an ambitious photography program in the city, Moore said, after the departure of the museum's photography curator. With its return, FotoFocus is officially a biennial program.

Memorial Hall and Washington Park are the ideal starting points for anyone keen on in catching a variety of FotoFocus within walking distance. That's particularly so over the opening weekend, when anyone can participate in FotoGram@ArtHub, an evolving exhibition of Instagram photos.

While there's no charge to see much of the work, people need to purchase "passports," ranging from \$15 for students to \$150 for all access, including a reception with Waters and other insider events.

[Visit the FotoFocus web site](#) for a complete rundown of exhibitions, lectures and ticketing options.