

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

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VISUAL ARTS

Westcott to become 'House of Photography'

Famous local native inspires Urban Spaces.

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A late Springfield photography pro is the inspiration behind the second FotoFocus "House of Photography" event.

Urban Spaces will feature the work of professional and amateur photographers, including several local figures, focusing on modern city life and architecture.

Springfield's Westcott House will host the regional initiative with an exhibition opening, 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 7, next Friday. The exhibition will be open during museum hours through Nov. 30.

Springfield native Berenice Abbott was born here in 1898 and later moved to New York City, using her photographic talents to capture urban life and architecture during the Depression era, including several that became iconic such as her picture of the famous Flatiron Building.

Urban Spaces is a modern take on what Abbott did, with nearly 50 photos on display.

"Her work is quite beautiful and what guided this theme, especially architecture," said Marta Wojcik, executive director and curator of the Westcott House Foundation.

This is a juried exhibition featuring the work of several Ohio photographers who shot internationally and locally.

"They show how people interpret the subject, and there's a nice variety," said Wojcik.

Photographers and museum professionals will judge the works in a blind jury process.

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based organization that celebrates photography and lens-based art with biennial events across the state, featuring a variety of themes.

Of specific local interest will be photos of Springfield. Wojcik said the unique design of the Westcott House is an appropriate setting for the exhibit. "This will be an unconventional gallery space. We'll have the photos in various areas of the house. This this is a nice way to explore the house, too."

The opening will feature many of the photographers, who will give remarks and talk to attendees. Winners will also be announced.

Food and music will add to the highlights. Admission to the opening is free to Westcott House members and \$5 for nonmembers.

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