

Art: *Eyes on the Street* at the Cincinnati Art Museum

BY STEVEN ROSEN · NOVEMBER 19TH, 2014 · CITYBEAT RECOMMENDS



Philip-Lorca diCorcia's "Head #13" - Photo: Courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner New York/London

For *Eyes on the Street*, Cincinnati Art Museum's contribution to the FotoFocus Biennial, curator Brian Sholis set out to do something more than just display still photographs and short films/videos that he liked. As this was his first show since coming to Cincinnati from New York a year ago, he wanted to posit a provocative new idea — to shape a conversation — about the evolution of street photography in a changing world.

No more is it what it was in the mid-20th century, when (mostly male) romantic, heroic figures prowled urban streets with their hand-held cameras, hunting for something/someone unexpectedly striking to candidly photograph.

The events of 9/11 changed street life everywhere.

To a large degree, the street was now its own camera, as security needs prompted video monitoring everywhere. At the same time, everyone with a smart phone is now a photographer with the potential for instant worldwide distribution and impact. What can old-fashioned street photographers do to top that? New ideas are needed.

Sholis' *Eyes on the Street* attempts to address both of those societal changes simultaneously, while not losing track of the fact he's showing fine art. He has selected relatively recent work from 10 international artists. The show is up through Jan. 4, 2015. Visit cincinnatiartmuseum.org for more information.