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FOTOFOCUS: A Look Inside The Lens

September 20, 2012



Doug and Mike Starn, *Doug + Mike Starn: Gravity of Light*, Cincinnati Art Museum in collaboration with FOTOFOCUS Cincinnati Fall 2012, conceptual rendering of installation

Here at iSPYCINCY we are especially **fond of pictures**. As a medium, photographs have a **powerful responsibility to capture the integrity of a moment** and in that moment tell a story. Beyond video, pictures **hold together the past, present, and future** better than most other artistic forms, and with the **ever popular apps like Instagram** and Camera+, I'd say the **photograph is the status update** of our generation. It's almost as if the event didn't happen unless you **snap a picture** for all of your followers to see.



Michael Platt, *Standing Between the Doors #6*, Courtesy of the artist and Gateway Arts Festival

That being said, Cincinnati is **eager to kick off the inaugural biennial FOTOFOCUS festival**. If you are just getting the memo, let me fill you in. FOTOFOCUS is a nonprofit arts organization that **champions the ubiquity of photography** and its important role in contemporary culture. The idea for the festival **began as discussions in May 2010**, and from those initial meetings a group of 15 or so committee members have **built FOTOFOCUS organically** – as the largest and most dynamic photography festival in the region. **Mary Ellen Goeke is the FF director** while **James Crump** (chief curator at the Cincinnati Art Museum) and **Raphaella Platow** (Director at the Contemporary Arts Center) are the **c0-chairs**.

The **spectrum of work** that will be on display over the course of this month long festival **scream something that belongs in New York or Paris**, which is to say this is a top tier, high brow event. (That's just how we roll.)

FOTOFOCUS recaptures the **spirit of Cincinnati's legacy as an epicenter of art production** and creative exchange and seeks to **revitalize that spirit for the 21st**

century. Acting as a catalyst and dialogue for **collaboration and community engagement**, FOTOFOCUS is packed with a **month's worth of exhibitions, parties, and events**.

So how **can you get involved?** I'm glad you asked. The organizers of the festival have created the **ZOOM Passport Series**. For only \$75 you gain **access to some of the best events** throughout the month.



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Upcoming Events





Santeri Tuori, *Forest (Grey 1)*; 2009

[Some of the highlights of the ZOOM Passport include:](#)

Friday, September 21

Image Machine: Andy Warhol and Photography
CAC Members Opening from 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, October 4

Herb Ritts: L.A. Style
Cincinnati Art Museum from 6-8 p.m.

Friday, October 5

SIDESHOW Kick-Off Party
Backstage Theater District Alley from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Wednesday, October 10

Musical Portraits from Heber Springs: Bill Frisell's Disfarmer Project
The Emery Theatre from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 20

Photographic Installations by Jordan Tate and Anthony Pearson
Voltage Gallery from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

[CARNEVIL: Halloween Closing Party](#)

[Haunted Historic Thompson Estate from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.](#)



Wyatt Niehaus, *Future Solutions*; Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Although nothing is set, the **committee members have already been in talks** with key partner venues for the **2014 FF festival**. Moreover, the plan in **off years is to have FF speakers and exhibitions** to keep the discussion going. But that's **getting ahead** of ourselves. The real story is about **what's happening** in a few short days.

If you want to be a part of one of the **best artistic festivals in the region** – possibly the country – then [purchase your ZOOM Passport Series](#) today.

**Don't forget, if you want to share some of your own pictures with the iSPYCINCY community, then [sign up for U-SPY](#) now. That way, when you are at FF events snapping pictures you can tag #ispyncy Instagram and your pictures will show up on the [U-SPY photo feed](#).*

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