

FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus Extends Lens Mix Conversation Series and Announces Upcoming Virtual Talks

Nadia Hallgren, Hal Foster, Sarah Meister, John Miller, George Mumford, and Zora J Murff to Take Part in the Talks Series Connecting Artists, Filmmakers, and Creatives from Different Fields

(Cincinnati, OH — February 25, 2021) — **FotoFocus** is pleased to announce it has extended its **Lens Mix** virtual conversation series and will present three new live talks on **March 4, April 10, and May 6, 2021**. Initially conceived as a three-part series to celebrate FotoFocus's tenth anniversary in 2020, Lens Mix connects speakers from different fields to comment on film, photography, and lens-based art. Each conversation is moderated by **FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore** and invites speakers to explore each others' creative practices and projects through intimate hour-long Zoom discussions.

"After the overwhelmingly positive response we received last year, we are delighted to continue Lens Mix and produce even more engaging, timely discussions. Through the voices of artists, filmmakers, writers, and theorists, we can give insight into the common themes that bridge their fields and shape their careers," said **FotoFocus Executive Director Mary Ellen Goeke**.

The upcoming Lens Mix conversations will bring together filmmaker **Nadia Hallgren** and performance whisperer **George Mumford**; artist **John Miller** and art critic and historian **Hal Foster**; and artist **Zora J Murff** and MoMA curator and soon-to-be Aperture Foundation Director **Sarah Meister**.

These virtual events are free online and open to the public. Registration is required.

Lens Mix 4: Nadia Hallgren and George Mumford

Thursday, March 4, 2021, 6pm EST

REGISTER HERE



George Mumford. Nadia Hallgren by JJ Medina.

In this era of dramatic social friction, with professional barriers both still in place and regularly toppling, the paths to achieving personal greatness are more complex than ever. Join filmmaker Nadia Hallgren and sports whisperer George Mumford for a discussion about the extraordinary people they have worked with—like Michelle Obama and Kobe Bryant—and the pursuit of excellence in their own careers.

Lens Mix 5: John Miller and Hal Foster
Saturday, April 10, 2021, 3pm EST
[REGISTER HERE](#)



Hal Foster by Sandy Tait. John Miller, courtesy the artist and from the series *The Middle of the Day*.

As the futures of art, society, and politics seem to unfold in increasingly erratic ways, this conversation between artist John Miller and art critic and historian Hal Foster will seek to reveal pattern and meaning in both the ambitions of the artistic avant-garde and the more banal material realities of contemporary society.

Lens Mix 6: Zora J Murff and Sarah Meister
Thursday, May 6, 2021, 6pm EST
[REGISTER HERE](#)



Zora J Murff self portrait. Sarah Meister by Naima Green.

In this “big-tent” moment of promising yet unstable democratic politics, American racial dynamics are being scrutinized by citizens of all colors and professions. This conversation between artist Zora J Murff and MoMA curator and soon-to-be Aperture Foundation Director Sarah Meister will look at storytelling through photographs, both historical and contemporary, to expose, in the words of Murff, incidences of “fast and slow violence.”

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Nadia Hallgren is an award-winning filmmaker from the Bronx, New York. She directed the Emmy-nominated documentary, *BECOMING* and Academy Award-shortlisted short documentary, *After Maria*. She is the recipient of the special jury prize at SXSW for *She's the Ticket* and a Webby for Public Service and Activism for her film *Gavin Grimm vs. Nadia* is a leading documentary cinematographer, credits including Sundance award-winner *Motherland* and Academy Award-nominated *Trouble the Water*. Nadia is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and an alum of the International Center of Photography.

George Mumford is an inspirational and globally recognized public speaker, teacher, and coach. He's taught mindfulness to people in every walk of life, from locker room to boardroom, from Yale to jail, using concepts that are powerful, yet easy to understand and apply. George has worked with Phil Jackson and many of the teams he coached to become NBA champions. Michael Jordan credits him with transforming his on-court leadership of the Bulls, and his roster of champion clients has blossomed beyond basketball to include corporate executives, Olympians, and athletes in many different sports.

John Miller is an artist, writer and musician based in New York and Berlin. In 2020, the Schinkel Pavillon in Berlin featured *An Elixir of Immortality*, an overview of his work. At the same time, Miller also organized a group exhibition titled *Lost in America* at the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein. In June 2021, the Kunsthalle Bielefeld will exhibit his *Middle of the Day* photographs with his video and PowerPoint works. Miller has had retrospective exhibitions at La Magasin in Grenoble, the Kunstverein in Hamburg, the Kunsthalle Zurich, the ICA Miami, and the Museum in Bellpark, Kriens, Switzerland. His publications include *Mike Kelley: Educational Complex* (Afterall Books, 2015), *The Ruin of Exchange: Selected Writings*, and *The Price Club: Selected Writings (1977-1998)* (both Positions, JRP-Ringier and the Consortium). Miller is a Professor of Professional Practice in Barnard College's Art History Department.

Hal Foster is the author of numerous books, including, mostly recently, *What Comes After Farce? Art and Criticism at a Time of Debacle* (Verso, 2020), and *Brutal Aesthetics* (Princeton University Press, 2020), his 2018 Mellon Lectures at the National Gallery in Washington. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he teaches at Princeton University, co-edits the journal *October*, and contributes regularly to the *London Review of Books* and *Artforum*.

Zora J Murff is an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Arkansas. He received his MFA from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and holds a BS in Psychology from Iowa State University. Merging his educational experiences, Murff uses his practice to highlight intersections between various social systems and art. He has published books with Aint-Bad Editions and Kris Graves Projects. His most recent monograph, *At No Point In Between* (Dais Books), was selected as the winner of the Independently Published category of the Lucie Foundation Photo Book Awards. Murff is also a Co-Curator of Strange Fire Collective, a group of interdisciplinary artists, writers, and curators working to construct and promote an archive of artwork created by diverse makers. Murff is represented by Webber Gallery, London.

Sarah Meister will become Executive Director of Aperture in May 2021. She has been a Curator in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art since 2009, where her most recent exhibitions include *Fotoclubismo: Brazilian Modernist Photography, 1946-1964* (2021) and *Dorothea Lange: Words & Pictures* (2020). Her other recent publications and projects have considered the work of Gordon Parks (2020), Luigi Ghirri (2020), and Frances Benjamin Johnston (2019). She is co-director of the August Sander Project, a five year research initiative that will conclude in September 2021.

ABOUT FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art through exhibitions and public programming. Since 2010, the organization has engaged art and educational institutions throughout the region to support and expand the cultural dialogue around the medium that has come to define our time. With an emphasis on intellectually and academically rigorous programs, the organization provides uniquely enriching access to lens-based art, film, and practices inspired by photography. FotoFocus has collaborated with organizations, curators, academics, and more than 1600 artists and participants, to present over 600 exhibitions and programs.

FotoFocus has awarded over 500 grants to support partners presenting projects and educational programs that are accessible and engaging to the public. In April 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, FotoFocus pledged part of its 2020 Biennial budget to financially support more than 100 Participating Venues and Partners in the region's art community through FotoFocus Emergency Art Grants.

Signature programming includes: **FotoFocus Biennial**, which had a record-breaking 207,000 visitors in 2018 and has presented exhibitions of work by both historic and contemporary artists such as Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, Roe Ethridge, Zanele Muholi, Karl Blossfeldt, Francis Bruguère, Thomas Ruff, and Akram

Zaatari in Cincinnati; the **FotoFocus Symposium**, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe exhibition; the **FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**, which has brought internationally renowned artists, such as Zoe Leonard and William Wegman, to Cincinnati; and the **FotoFocus Film Program**, created to enrich the region's cinematic landscape.

PRESS CONTACT

Jill Robinson

Associate Director, Cultural Counsel

jill@culturalcounsel.com