

FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus Announces Speakers and Schedule for 2022 Symposium Exploring the Past and Future of Sharing Images

Telephotography Speakers Include Visual Artists Collier Schorr, Moyra Davey, Mary Mattingly; *The Associated Press* Photojournalist Dieu-Nalio Chery; Former *TIME* Photo Editor Alice Gabriner; and More

April 9 & 10, 2022
Memorial Hall & The Garfield Theatre, Cincinnati, OH



(CINCINNATI, OH — JANUARY 25, 2022) — The **FotoFocus Symposium** returns for its sixth edition this spring, centered around the theme of *Telephotography* and held across two locations. On **April 9 & 10, 2022**, world-renowned speakers from the fields of architecture, art, fashion, film, psychology, and media will speculate on the past, present, and future of sharing images over long distances—both physically and digitally, literally and figuratively—in a series of panel discussions, lectures, and film screenings.

The first day of programming, held at Memorial Hall, will address a wide range of subjects, such as how nineteenth-century scientists tried to capture electricity on film; the meteoric progression of press photography between the 1930s and 1970s; how architectural renderings and visualizations have changed in recent years; and the complex role of being a photojournalist in today's world of rapid-fire news cycles. Artist participants include renowned **visual artist and fashion photographer Collier Schorr**—the Symposium's keynote speaker—who has exhibited worldwide and shot covers and editorials for *Vogue* and *The New York Times*; celebrated **photographer Moyra Davey**, known for her mailed photographs series in which she folds her photographs into envelopes and sends them to friends; **visual artist and environmental activist Mary Mattingly**, who often places her installations addressing climate change in unreachable waters; and **Kevin Schmidt**, the artist who transformed a remote, abandoned house into an art installation that was practically impossible to visit in-person but widely shared on social media.

FOTOFOCUS

The second day, held at The Garfield Theatre, will revolve around a special film program curated by **Havana Film Festival New York Creative Director Diana Vargas**. Multiple film shorts, the feature film *The Leading Actor (El actor principal)*, and a panel discussion will aim to showcase the diversity of Latin American cultures to North American audiences, while examining the ways in which media—photographic imagery in particular—creates and distorts understanding of foreign cultures.

“Photographs have been transmitted since the earliest days of photography and that currency has always been one of photo’s prime features in terms of utility and value, but the recent fracturing of social structures due to the pandemic has brought it all to the fore. It seems like a good time to reassess the history of image transmission and how it plays into communications and art making today,” says **FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore**.



Kevin Schmidt, *EDM House (still)*, 2014. HD video, 17 min. © Kevin Schmidt. Courtesy of Catriona Jeffries Gallery.

FOTOFOCUS

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Free and open to the public. For the latest [schedule](#) and more details on [speakers](#), please visit fotofocus.org.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Memorial Hall, 1225 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH

9am Breakfast

9:45am Opening Remarks

10am **Panel: *Electricity***

Moderated by **Corey Keller**, Independent Curator and Scholar, Oakland, CA, with panelists: **Jordan Bear**, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada; and **Chitra Ramalingam**, Interdisciplinary Curator and Academic at Yale University, New Haven, CT

In the nineteenth century, harnessing the potential of electricity became a preoccupation of scientific investigation and also tantalized (and sometimes terrified) the public imagination. This panel will consider the close and complex relationship between photography and electricity: how the medium was deployed to both visualize and conceal this potent but invisible force, and how electrical impulses were translated into the first "telephotographs," eclipsing space and time.

11am **Panel: *Signal and Event: Early Press Photography and Its Distributions***

Moderated by **Jason Hill**, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE, with panelists: **Kim Beil**, Art Historian based at Stanford University, Stanford, CA; **Amy Scott**, Executive Vice President of Research and Interpretation and Marilyn B. and Calvin B. Gross Curator of Visual Arts at the Autry Museum, Los Angeles, CA; and **Mary Panzer**, Independent Scholar, New York, NY

Press photography is primarily concerned with the prompt transmission of information about world events, to be received, as a rule, by viewers at some remove in place and time. With a focus on press photography's golden age, circa 1930s–1970s, this panel considers some of the technologies and sites of transmission—the photo morgue; the television set, the police radio tower; the art museum—and the powers of inflection each of these contain.

Noon **Panel: *Remote Exhibiting***

Moderated by **Kevin Moore**, FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator, with panelists: **Chandra Frank**, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Charles Phelps Taft

FOTOFOCUS

Research Center at the University of Cincinnati and Independent Curator, Cincinnati, OH; **Mary Mattingly**, Artist, Brooklyn, NY; and **Kevin Schmidt**, Artist, Toronto, Canada

As centers of power—both actual places and critical discourses—are increasingly questioned, the concept of remoteness holds a seductive promise as both a location and mindset outside conventional methods of thinking, making, and exhibiting. This panel examines how artists and curators are making use of technology to create and critique from afar.

1pm Lunch Break

2pm **Artist Spotlight: Moyra Davey**

Moyra Davey, Artist, New York, NY, will speak about her folded/mailed photographs, a process initiated almost by accident in 2007 and to this day a staple of her artistic practice.

2:30pm **Panel: *Designing for People?***

Moderated by **David van der Leer**, Principal, DVDL, New York, NY, with panelists: **Todd Levon Brown**, Environmental Psychologist, Austin, TX, and **Iwan Baan**, Photographer, Amsterdam, Netherlands

For decades, architects and designers largely preferred representing their building and city designs as unpopulated as possible in order to highlight those designs. Today, visualizations of future spaces, and their documentation once built, have begun to include people but as a subordinate element to the designs. This panel explores how photography and visualizations can help us better understand how we are actually impacted by the architectural spaces we inhabit.

3:30pm **Panel: *Breaking News***

Moderated by **Alice Gabriner**, Independent Visual Editor, New York, NY, with panelists: **Dieu-Nalio Chery**, Associated Press Photojournalist, New York, NY, and **Erin Schaff**, New York Times Staff Photographer, Washington, D.C.

At media organizations, the pressures to produce images and stories faster and in greater volume have created evolving challenges for news photographers—and photo editors—in terms of both competition and in their ability to relay complex stories in such a fast moving landscape.

4:30pm Break

FOTOFOCUS

5pm **Keynote Conversation: Sophie Hackett and Collier Schorr**
Collier Schorr, Artist and Critic, New York, NY, and Sophie Hackett, Curator of Photography at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada, discuss the ways in which artists and curators are applying technologies to new patterns of globalism.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

The Garfield Theatre, 719 Race Street, Cincinnati, OH

2pm **Film Program: Corto Circuito and *The Leading Actor (El actor principal)***
Curated by **Diana Vargas**, Artistic Director, Havana Film Festival New York

Beginning at 2pm, the Symposium Film Program will include film shorts from Latin America, a panel discussion, and a special feature film, *The Leading Actor (El actor principal)*. This program presents the diversity of Latin American cultures while examining the ways in which media—and photographic imagery in particular—creates and distorts understanding of foreign cultures.

Additional film program details to follow.

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 750 exhibitions and programs.

FotoFocus has awarded close to 600 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 FotoFocus programming includes the **FotoFocus Biennial**, which returns October 2022 with a new theme, *World Record*, and a week of concentrated programming from September 29–October 8, 2022. Past editions have presented work across the Cincinnati region by historic and contemporary artists including Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, Roe Ethridge, Zanele Muholi, Karl Blossfeldt, Francis Bruguière, Thomas Ruff, and Akram Zaatari. Other landmark events include the **FotoFocus Symposium**, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe

FOTOFOCUS

exhibition, and the **FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**, which has brought globally renowned artists like Zoe Leonard and William Wegman to Cincinnati.

CONNECT

WEBSITE: www.fotofocus.org

INSTAGRAM: [@fotofocuscincinnati](https://www.instagram.com/fotofocuscincinnati)

FACEBOOK: [@FotoFocusCincinnati](https://www.facebook.com/FotoFocusCincinnati)

TWITTER: [@fotofocuscincy](https://twitter.com/fotofocuscincy)

PRESS CONTACTS

Jill Robinson

Associate Director, Cultural Counsel

jill@culturalcounsel.com

Marcella Zimmermann

Vice President, Cultural Counsel

marcella@culturalcounsel.com