

FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus Biennial Celebrates Largest Edition to Date

Over 100 Photography and Lens-based Art Exhibitions and Projects at 90 Venues Remain On View Throughout October and into Early 2023



Visitors viewing Liz Roberts' site-specific commission at CampSITE Sculpture Park. Courtesy of FotoFocus

(Cincinnati, OH — October 27, 2022) — **FotoFocus**, the Cincinnati-based non-profit arts organization devoted to photography and lens-based art, celebrated the opening week of the sixth edition of the **FotoFocus Biennial September 29–October 8** with dozens of Biennial Program Week events. An ambitious collaboration between FotoFocus and the region's museums, galleries, universities and non-traditional spaces, the FotoFocus Biennial brings international exhibitions and projects to a month-long celebration of photography in the Cincinnati region. This year's edition unites more than 600 artists, archivists, curators, educators, and participants from around the world. The 2022 FotoFocus Biennial: *World Record* runs through the end of October, with many exhibitions remaining open longer.

The 2022 Biennial highlights photography's extensive record of life on earth and humankind's impact on the natural world with projects all centered around the theme of *World Record*. It encompasses more than 100 projects at 90 venues throughout the region. This year's Passport Program—a program providing access to FotoFocus Biennial projects and members-only events—was made free for the first time ever. Additionally, many of the Biennial exhibitions are free to visit throughout October.

WORLD RECORD

“The sixth edition of the Biennial brings home how FotoFocus serves as a hub and platform for national, international, and local artists and curators to create community together through the celebration of photography and lens-based art,” says **Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus Executive Director**. “Over 1,300 visitors participated in the Biennial Program Week, bringing to life our central mission to produce thought-provoking, engaging, and accessible photography exhibitions and experiences.”

“This year we expanded curated sections of the Biennial to include even more guest curators and projects from around the world. They brought a nuanced range of dimensions to the theme of *World Record*, making for an enriching experience that raised questions about what we now face as a global community,” says **Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator**.

Several of the FotoFocus-curated exhibitions are accompanied by new catalogues, artist books, and monographs.



L: Visitors at the opening of *These Things Are Connected* at The Carnegie. Courtesy of FotoFocus, **R:** Director, producer, and cinematographer Jeff Orlowski-Yang making a keynote address at the daytime symposium at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Courtesy of FotoFocus

BIENNIAL PROGRAM WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

Biennial Program Week started with opening receptions at the Taft Museum of Art and Cincinnati Art Museum, which included a talk with curator **Nathaniel M. Stein**, artist **David Hartt**, and poet **Jason Allen-Pasiant**.

Tony Oursler addressed guests in conversation with FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator **Kevin Moore** at the opening of his exhibition *Crossing Neptune* at Michael Lowe Gallery.





Dara Friedman's film *Dancer* (2011) screened to a packed audience at the Contemporary Arts Center, followed by a conversation between Friedman and artist and singer **Lizzi Bougatsos**.

Two daytime symposia with talks, discussions, and keynote addresses by artists, curators and distinguished speakers took place at Memorial Hall and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

The **Mayor of Cincinnati, Aftab Pureval**, proclaimed October the Month of Photography on October 1 to wrap up the Daytime Symposium at Memorial Hall.

Artists **JEB (Joan E. Biren)**, **Lola Flash**, and **Diana Solís** discussed their work shown in *Images on which to build, 1970s-1990s* along with Lesbian Herstory Archives Co-coordinator **Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz** in a panel at Memorial Hall moderated by the exhibition's curator **Ariel Goldberg**.

Curators of *On the Line: Documents of Risk and Faith*, Lucie Award-nominated **Makeda Best** and **Kevin Moore** discussed the group exhibition with contributing artists **Mitch Epstein** and **Xaviera Simmons** at the Memorial Hall symposium.

Artists, curators and visitors gathered for a street party to celebrate **Ian Strange's** exhibition, *Disturbed Home*, at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, featuring work that was commissioned by FotoFocus and developed site-specifically in Cincinnati.

Deborah Willis and **Cheryl Finley**, curators of *'Free as they want to be': Artists Committed to Memory*, co-moderated a panel discussion with artists **Adama Delphine Fawundu**, **Daesha Devón Harris**, and **Wendel A. White** at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center before celebrating the exhibition at an opening reception.

Emmy award-winning director, producer, and cinematographer **Jeff Orlowski-Yang** (*Chasing Ice*, *Chasing Coral*, *The Social Dilemma*) gave a keynote speech addressing the climate crisis through the lens of his films at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Curators **Matt Distel**, **Esther Callahan**, **Daniel Fuller**, **Cameron Granger**, and **Tif Sigfrids** discussed the collaboratively-curated exhibition, *These Things are Connected*, at The Carnegie in Covington, KY in a panel moderated by author **Sergio Aguillón-Mata**.

Liz Roberts discussed her site-specific installation with curator **Marisa Espe** at a reception for *Liz Roberts: Post Blonde* at CampSITE Sculpture Park.

Throughout the week, opening receptions and talks were held at the Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery, Art Academy of Cincinnati, CampSITE Sculpture Park, The Carnegie, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Main Library, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Zoo, FLAG Studio, The Garfield Theatre, i.imagine Center of Photography, Kennedy Heights Arts Center, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Taft Museum of Art, and Wave Pool Gallery.



WORLD RECORD

Full Program Week details can be found [here](#) on the website.



L: Lizzi Bougatsos and Dara Friedman in conversation after screening of Friedman's *Dancer* at the Contemporary Arts Center, **Top R:** JEB (Joan E. Biren) and Ariel Goldberg discussing *Images on which to build: 1970s-1990s* during the symposium at Memorial Hall, **Bottom R:** Deborah Willis speaking on J.P. Ball at the symposium at National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Photos courtesy of FotoFocus

FOTOFOCUS-CURATED EXHIBITIONS

CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

On the Line: Documents of Risk and Faith

September 9, 2022–January 15, 2023

Curated by **Makeda Best** and **Kevin Moore**, the works in this exhibition address a range of topics, spanning performance and the body, climate change, power, colonialism and identity, heritage, and territory. Collectively, they portray complex and contested relationships humans have with notions of environment, wilderness, nature, and place. The featured artists are **Allora and Calzadilla, Francis Alÿs, Mohamed Bourouissa, Abraham Cruzvillegas and Bárbara Foulkes, Mitch Epstein, Patricia Esquivias, Dara Friedman, Jim Goldberg, David Hammons and Dawoud Bey, Rashid Johnson, An-My Lê, Mary Mattingly, Paulo Nazareth, Wendy Red Star, Mauro Restiffe, Lordy Rodriguez, Alessandra Sanguinetti, Kevin Schmidt, Xaviera Simmons, Tania Willard.**

Images on Which to Build. 1970s–1990s

September 30, 2022–February 12, 2023

Curated by **Ariel Goldberg**, this sprawling exhibition explores the imaging practices within LGBTQ+ movements of the late 20th century that ignited processes of learning. The artists and archivists featured in the exhibition include **Allan Bérubé, Ben Power Alwin, JEB (Joan E. Biren), Georgia Brooks, Loren**





Rex Cameron, Lola Flash, Allen Frame, Frank Franca, Paula Grant, Morgan Gwenwald, Saskia Scheffer, Diana Solís, and the activist and art collectives on view include **Art + Positive**, **Electric Blanket AIDS Projection Project**, **GLBT Historical Society**, **Lesbian Herstory Archives**, **Sexual Minorities Archive**.

Baseera Khan: Weight on History

September 30, 2022–September 24, 2023

For their first solo exhibition in the Midwest, **Baseera Khan** brings together new and recent collages, sculptures, and video, alongside a major new commission that responds to architectural signifiers of power. The exhibition is curated by **Amara Antilla**, Senior Curator at Large at the Contemporary Arts Center, and **Ylinka Barotto**, Independent Curator.

ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Ian Strange: Disturbed Home and **Annex**

October 1, 2022–December 9, 2022

Disturbed Home is a survey of **Ian Strange**'s architectural interventions, including photographic and filmic interpretations of those structural works. It highlights projects of the past twelve years and spans geographies from Strange's native Australia, to New Zealand, Japan, Poland, and the United States, including Cincinnati, Ohio where the artist developed a site-specific installation commissioned by FotoFocus and curated by **Kevin Moore**, FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator.

MICHAEL LOWE GALLERY

Tony Oursler: Crossing Neptune

September 29, 2022–October 31, 2022

Crossing Neptune, curated by **Kevin Moore**, features archival works on the theme of water from the personal collection of artist **Tony Oursler**—photographs, mostly anonymous, of baptisms, "blob monsters," ice formations, and actual vessels of holy water—plus original installation works by Oursler on water as a transformative element embodying a long list of inherited, paranormal mythologies.

THE CARNEGIE

These Things Are Connected

October 1, 2022–January 28, 2023

The Carnegie's Exhibitions Director **Matt Distel** brings together curators **Esther Callahan**, **Daniel Fuller**, **Cameron Granger**, and **Tif Sigfrids**—all working in the realm of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region. Each curator selected and developed projects based on linking artists across different geographies: **Dejah Archie-Davis**, **Andrew Cenci**, **Thomas Dozol**, **Myra Greene**, **Jaida Grey Eagle**, **Lorena Molina**, **Kristin Rogers**, **Josh Sachs**, **Rebecca Steele**, **Xia Zhang**.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

'Free as the want to be': Artists Committed to Memory

September 30, 2022–March 6, 2023

The group exhibition curated by **Deborah Willis** and **Cheryl Finley** considers the historic and contemporary role that photography and film have played in remembering legacies of slavery and its





aftermath and examines the social lives of Black Americans within various places including the land, at home, in photographic albums, at historic sites, and in public memory. Artists include **Terry Adkins**, **Radcliffe Bailey**, **J.P. Ball Studio**, **Sadie Barnette**, **Dawoud Bey**, **Sheila Pree Bright**, **Bisa Butler**, **Omar Victor Diop**, **Nona Faustine**, **Adama Delphine Fawundu**, **Daesha Devón Harris**, **Isaac Julien**, **Catherine Opie**, **Yelaine Rodriguez**, **Hank Willis Thomas**, **Lava Thomas**, **Carrie Mae Weems**, **Wendel A. White**, and **William Earle Williams**.

CAMPSITE SCULPTURE PARK

Liz Roberts: Post Blonde

September 29, 2022–October 31, 2022

Liz Roberts' new site-specific commission curated by FotoFocus Director of Curatorial Strategy **Carissa Barnard** presents an uninhabited drive-in tableau in which one automobile is left and others are repeatedly disembodied to form a large movie screen made from salvaged windshields. Nostalgic and thirsty for typical road movie tropes, the installation references the resurgence of drive-ins and the pining for collective voyeurism of movie screenings.

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

Natural World

September 30, 2022–January 15, 2023

Natural World is an expansive collaboration between visual artists **David Hartt** (Canadian, lives/works Philadelphia, b. 1967) and **John Edmonds** (American, lives/works New York, b. 1989), poet **Jason Allen-Paisant**, and Cincinnati Art Museum Curator of Photography **Nathaniel M. Stein**. In new photographs, textiles, sculptures, site-specific installations, and an artist-designed publication, the collaborators reflect on relationships between identity, institutions and their collections, ways of knowing and telling stories, and ideas about nature and naturalness. Their overlapping dialogues with the museum's collections suggest that we learn—and can unlearn—what we perceive to be natural about the ideas and worlds we make and inhabit.

TAFT MUSEUM OF ART

Craft and Camera: The Art of Nancy Ford Cones

October 1, 2022–January 15, 2023

For more than forty years, on a small riverside farm in Loveland, Ohio, **Nancy Ford Cones** (1869–1962) created photographs that earned her a national reputation during a time when female artists continued to struggle for recognition. Despite the praise she received during her lifetime, Cones' imaginative and exquisitely crafted works were largely forgotten after her death. Curated by **Pepper Stetler** (Associate Professor of Art and Architecture History and Associate Director of the Miami University Humanities Center, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio), the exhibition resurrects the gifted artist's career and contributions to the field of photography.

CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT MUSIC HALL

Sun Dogs

October 14, 2022–October 16, 2022





FotoFocus and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra presented *Sun Dogs*, a program featuring pairs of composers and filmmakers in collaboration, each offering a unique perspective of the natural world through short-format films fused with new music performed by the CSO, conducted by CSO Creative Partner, **Matthias Pintscher** and produced in collaboration with **Kate Nordstrum/Liquid Music**. The program featured world premieres by composers **Arooj Aftab**, **Daniel Wohl**, **Rafiq Bhatia**, and **Dev Hynes**; filmmakers **Josephine Decker** and **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**; and directors **Mati Diop** and **Manon Lutanie**.



L: Guests visiting *Tony Oursler: Crossing Neptune* at Michael Lowe Gallery. Courtesy of FotoFocus, **R:** Installation view of *Ian Strange: Disturbed Home* at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Photo by Nicholas Namyar

FOTOFOCUS BIENNIAL PARTICIPANTS

Artists featured in this year's FotoFocus Biennial include Terry Adkins, Francis Alÿs, J.P. Ball, Dawoud Bey, JEB (Joan E Biren), Bisa Butler, Josephine Decker, John Edmonds, Mitch Epstein, Lola Flash, Myra Greene, David Hartt, Rashid Johnson, Catherine Opie, Tony Oursler, Liz Roberts, Xaviera Simmons, Wendy Red Star, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Carrie Mae Weems, Hank Willis Thomas, and many more. *Full Biennial artist and participant list available [here](#).*

90 total participating venues including the 21c Museum Hotel, The Carnegie, Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Contemporary Arts Center, Dayton Art Institute, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum, Taft Museum of Art, Wave Pool, and galleries at Northern Kentucky University, the University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, Wright State University, Xavier University, and many more.

Full Biennial venue information available [here](#).

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**, **FotoFocus Symposium**, **FotoFocus Talks Series**, and **Film and Video** programming. Past Biennial 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 **Symposium**, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe exhibition, and the **Talks Series**, which has brought globally renowned artists like Zoe Leonard and William Wegman to Cincinnati.

CONNECT

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