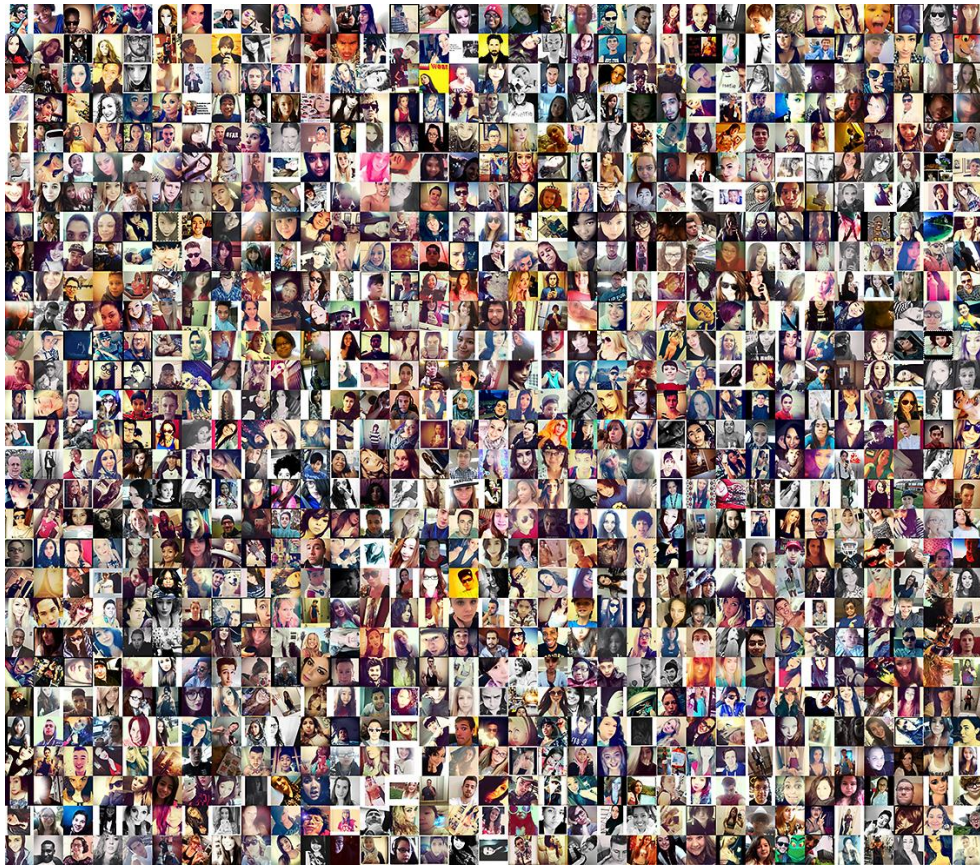


FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus Announces 2026 Biennial Opening Program

FotoFocus Center | 228 East Liberty Street, Cincinnati



Trevor Paglen, *Faces of ImageNet* (detail), 2022. © Trevor Paglen. Courtesy of The Artist and Fellowship, Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, and Pace Gallery, New York.

Cincinnati, OH (August 25, 2026) — FotoFocus is pleased to announce the Opening Program for the **2026 Biennial: *The Long View***, which will take place September 30–October 3 and establish the primary ideas and main themes that unite the entirety of the Biennial through the month of October. The largest of its kind in America, extending across museums, galleries, universities, and public spaces in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Northern Kentucky, the Biennial celebrates photography and lens-based art while bringing together artists, curators, and educators from around the world. The eighth edition of the Biennial, ***The Long View***, features 74 exhibitions presented at 65 venues including the newly opened FotoFocus Center. Major solo presentations will feature work by **Trevor Paglen**, **Paul Mpagi Sepuya**, **Nancy Rexroth**, and **Widline Cadet**.

FotoFocus is pleased to welcome **Daniel Immerwahr**, Bergen Evans Professor in the Humanities and Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, as the Keynote Speaker for the Opening Program. A scholar of global history and U.S. foreign policy, Immerwahr is uniquely suited to speak on

‘the long view,’ the Biennial theme and a phrase used to invoke a broader perspective, one defined by distance and duration. Considering photography as a metaphor for the attempt to grasp one’s place within the durational sweep of history, *The Long View* acknowledges the semiquincentennial of the United States and encourages a posture of reflection in regards to the country’s history, its past, present, and future.

“FotoFocus is thrilled to kick off this year’s iteration of the Biennial with a stellar lineup of speakers and exhibitions,” said Katherine Ryckman Siegwarth, FotoFocus Executive Director. “Through the Biennial Pass, our Opening Program is free to the public, allowing us to celebrate photography in the broadest sense with our communities.”

“The United States is at a critical moment in its history and it is my hope that, through a broad spectrum of photography exhibitions and conversations, we can better understand where we are, where we have been, and where we are going as a nation and culture,” shared Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator.

Ambitious and critically engaging exhibitions will be presented at museums, galleries, schools and universities, theaters, nonprofit cultural centers, parks, hotels, and libraries, among other venues, including site-specific installations, solo exhibitions, group exhibitions, public art projects, performances, and film screenings. For the complete list of projects, click [here](#).

Opening Program

The Biennial Opening Program establishes the theme and dialogues that unite the broader programming. For the latest program schedule, click [here](#).

Wednesday, September 30

The Carnegie

5–8pm

Opening Reception for *Natural Fictions*

Thursday, October 1

Cincinnati Art Museum

5–8pm

Reception for *Nancy Rexroth: Secrets of My Power* followed by Lecture with Nathaniel M. Stein, Curator of Photography at the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH and book signing with Artist Nancy Rexroth, Cincinnati, OH

Friday, October 2

Contemporary Arts Center

5pm

Gallery Tour of *In the Interest of Time* with Artists Elijah Howe, Felton, CA; Julie Renée Jones, Dayton, OH; Robyn Moore, Morehead, KY; Osamu James Nakagawa, Bloomington, IN; Jordanne Renner, Columbus, OH; Joseph Vitone, Austin, TX; Lynn Whitney, Waterville, OH; and Curator Theresa Bembrister, Cleveland, OH

Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery

6pm

Reception for *Paul Mpagi Sepuya: Compressed Tenses*

Contemporary Arts Center

7pm

Conversation with *Widline Cadet: Seremoni Disparisyon (Ritual [Dis]Appearance)* Curator Kristen Gaylord, Herzfeld Curator of Photography and Media Arts at the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI; and Shelby M. Sinclair,

Assistant Professor in the Department of African American
and African Studies at the University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, VA

8pm Opening Reception for *Widline Cadet: Seremoni
Disparisyon (Ritual [Dis]Appearance)* and *In the Interest of
Time*

Saturday, October 3

Memorial Hall

12–6pm Biennial Talks and Keynote

Noon Doors open. Light bites provided

1pm *Natural Fictions*
Conversation with Artists Joshua Berg, Covington, KY;
Heesoo Kwon, Los Angeles, CA; and Phillip Maisel, San
Francisco, CA; moderated by Curator Lindsay Albert,
Program Manager, KADIST, San Francisco, CA

2pm *Paul Mpagi Sepuya: Compressed Tenses*
Conversation with Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Artist, Los Angeles,
CA; and Carmen Winant, Artist and Roy Lichtenstein Chair
of Studio Art at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

3pm *Nancy Rexroth: Secrets of My Power*
Conversation with Curator Nathaniel M. Stein, Curator of
Photography at the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati,
OH, and Elizabeth Leitzell, Photographer and Short
Filmmaker, Philadelphia, PA

4pm *Trevor Paglen: the most merciful thing in the world*
Performance by Trevor Paglen, Artist, New York, NY, and
San Francisco, CA

5pm *The Long View* Keynote
Lecture by Daniel Immerwahr, Bergen Evans Professor in
the Humanities at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

FotoFocus Center

6pm Reception for *Trevor Paglen: the most merciful thing in the
world*

Neighborhood Spotlight Weekends

Neighborhood Spotlight Weekends highlight Biennial Venues within specific geographic locations where artists and curators will be on site for talks, tours, special events, and featured programming. Exclusive Pass Bus Tours travel to Neighborhood Spotlights on Saturdays for a programmed itinerary of events.

Dayton Spotlight Weekend

Friday, October 16–Sunday, October 18

Dayton Bus Tour | Saturday, October 17, 8am–7:15pm | 9 Venues, 14 Exhibitions

Columbus Spotlight Weekend

Friday, October 23–Sunday, October 25
Columbus Bus Tour | Saturday, October 24, 9am–7pm | 5 Venues, 5 Exhibitions

Cincinnati Spotlight Weekend

Friday, October 30–Sunday, November 1
Greater Cincinnati Bus Tour | Saturday, October 31, 8:30am–4:15pm | 9 Venues, 11 Exhibitions

Additional events during each Spotlight Weekend can be found on the [FotoFocus calendar](#).

Additional Programming

Biennial Events continue at venues throughout the month and include artist and curator talks, tours, performances, screenings, and receptions, which can be found at fotofocus.org/events.

FotoFocus Biennial Pass

The Biennial Pass offers free access to 70+ photography and lens-based exhibitions during the month of October with invitations to exclusive events, including entry into the Opening Program (September 30–October 3). The Opening Program establishes the core theme of the Biennial and features receptions, guided tours, talks, panel discussions, and a keynote lecture. Many venues and their events are free and open to the public; however, for those with admission fees, the Pass offers waived entry to Biennial exhibitions during the month of October.

As part of the Biennial Pass Program, FotoFocus also arranges free, round-trip bus tours from Cincinnati throughout the region to highlight select venues with artists and curators on site for talks, tours, and special events. Access is central to FotoFocus: the Biennial Pass is free thanks to generous donors, allowing thousands of attendees to be part of a community-wide celebration of photography.

FotoFocus is pleased to announce that the Biennial Pass Program is free and made possible by the generous support of William & Kate Baumann and Rob & Rachel Eckman.

The Biennial Pass is now available. Learn more and sign up [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 3,500 artists and participants, to present over 800 exhibitions and programs.

Signature FotoFocus programs include the Biennial, which has been held in October since 2012, with the upcoming 2026 edition titled *The Long View*. Past editions have presented work across the Cincinnati region by historic and contemporary artists, including Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, John Edmonds, Roe Ethridge, Rotimi Fani-Kayode, David Hartt, Baseera Khan, Zanele Muholi, Tony Oursler, Barbara Probst, Thomas Ruff, Ming Smith,

Ian Strange, Chip Thomas, and Akram Zaatari. Other landmark programs include the Symposium, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe exhibition and the Lecture and Visiting Artist Series, which has brought globally renowned artists such as Matt Black, An-My Lê, Sky Hopinka, Zoe Leonard, William Wegman, and Roger Ross Williams to Cincinnati.

Signature Programs are assisted in part by the Ohio Arts Council and H.B., E.W. & F.R. Luther Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, N.A., Trustee. Additional support generously provided by the Ohio Humanities Alliance.

Accessibility accommodations are available at select Opening Program events. For questions regarding accessibility accommodations during FotoFocus events, please email info@fotofocus.org.