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FOTO FEST 2010 BIENNIAL

CONTEMPORARY U.S. PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCH 12 – APRIL 25, 2010
HOUSTON, TEXAS



Sandra Valenzuela, from the series *X-boyfriends*
Alias Fake Memories (Paco), 2007, from the
FotoFest 2010 Biennial exhibition *Medianation*,
Courtesy of EDS Galeria

FotoFest 2010 Biennial Exhibitions, Curatorial Forums, Participating Spaces and Workshops Announced

HOUSTON, TEXAS - February 17, 2010 - In the 20th century, the cultural and economic dominance of the United States after World War II has led some scholars to call this period the “American Century.” U.S. photographers in the last century developed themes and styles that would come to be an important part of contemporary art in the United States. In 2010, FotoFest turns its attention, for the first time, to the subject of **Contemporary U.S. Photography** with its Thirteenth International Biennial of Photography and Photo-related Art.

FOTOFEST 2010 BIENNIAL EXHIBITIONS

For the Biennial’s four principal exhibitions dedicated to Contemporary U.S. Photography, FotoFest has invited five curators to put together the exhibitions.

“The 2010 Biennial is a platform to show the different perspectives of photographic art being created today and the perspectives of a new generation of curators,” says FotoFest Creative Director Wendy Watriss. A fifth non-thematic exhibition, *Discoveries of the Meeting Place*, showcases outstanding U.S. and international work discovered at the FotoFest portfolio review at the previous Biennial.

Road to Nowhere

**Curated by: Natasha Egan, Deputy Director, Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago
FotoFest at Winter Street Studios, 2101 Winter St, Houston, Texas**

Natasha Egan’s selections explore the United States at the close of the “American Century” as the nation negotiates its transition from Cold War superpower to an embattled, economically fragile nation. Ms. Egan says, “The artists in this exhibition address a repertoire of diverse but related themes including politics, surveillance, race, war, and economic insecurity. While the work is oftentimes critical, a quintessentially American optimism is evident.” Ms. Egan’s selections include: **Sheila Pree Bright, Jeff Brouws, Tim Davis, Myra Greene, Eirik Johnson, Erika Larson, Jason Lazarus, An-Mý Lê, Nic Nicosia, David Oresick, Trevor Paglen, Greta Pratt, Michael Robinson, Victoria Sambunaris, Christina Seely, Paul Shambroom, Greg Stimac, and Brian Ulrich.**

Whatever Was Splendid

Curated by: Aaron Schuman, Independent Curator, Editor and Founder, SeeSaw online magazine

FotoFest at Vine Street Studios, 1113 Vine Street, Houston, Texas

Aaron Schuman explores the legacy and continued influence of a “thoroughly modern photographic figure,” Walker Evans. “The striking similarities between Evans’s time and our own have become all too clear,” says Mr. Schuman. “Bearing this in mind, I began to investigate his profound influence on how the United States is still responded to, regarded, recognized and represented within photography today.” The artists in Mr. Schuman’s exhibition are: **Will Steacy, Michael Schmel-ling, Greg Stimac, Tema Stauffer, Jason Lazarus, Jane Tam, Richard Mosse, Craig Mammano, Todd Hido, Hank Willis Thomas, and RJ Shaughnessy.**

Assembly: Eight Emerging Photographers from Southern California

Curated by: Charlotte Cotton, Creative Director, National Media Museum, Bradford, U.K.; former Head of the Wallis Annen-berg Department of Photography, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Edward Robinson, Deputy Curator, Wallis Annen-berg Department of Photography, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

FotoFest at Williams Tower, 2800 Post Oak, Houston, Texas

Charlotte Cotton and Edward Robinson are both transplants to Southern California. Their exhibition and the artists’ work in it, are a reflection of the region’s place in the American mythos. Mr. Robinson explains, “The cultural legacy of South-ern California has engaged in an ongoing dialogue between utopian ideals and apocalyptic apprehension – the booster-ism of the ‘end of the road’ state heralded for its promise and abundance, in contrast to concerns about the fragility of its natural and constructed environment.” The selected artists are: **Nicole Belle, Matthew Brandt, Peter Holzhauer, Whitney Hubbs, Matt Lipps, Joey Lehman Morris, Asha Schechter, and Augusta Wood.**

Mediation

Curated by: Gilbert Vicario, Curator, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa; Former Assistant Curator of Latin American Art and Latino Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

FotoFest at New World Museum; Art League, Houston; and other locations

As a curator of contemporary art, Gilbert Vicario sees photography as just one of several media, including video, installa-tion and performance, used by contemporary artists. In *Mediation*, Mr. Vicario, “explores the interrelationship between the digital image and notions of process and performance in contemporary art. Taking the media as a starting point and as an undeniable (though not unique) American phenomenon, artists in *Mediation* explore political, sexual, and cul-tural issues in a moment when the demise of traditional forms of communication: radio, television, film, and photography are giving way to an explosion of digitally-based forms of social interaction including Facebook and Twitter to file and video sharing sites such as YouTube, Xtube, MySpace.” Artists include: **Leslie Hall, Susanne Jirkuff, Adria Julia, Kalup Linzy, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Laurel Nakadate, Sandra Valenzuela, and Emilio Chapela.**

DISCOVERIES OF THE MEETING PLACE

Of the five Biennial exhibitions sponsored by FotoFest, the one non-thematic exhibition is the returning ***Discoveries of the Meeting Place***, the eighth in a series that has proven to be a launching pad for photographic careers. Envisioned as a showcase for some of the best work discovered at the FotoFest’s previous Biennial portfolio review, the *Discoveries* exhibition presents work chosen by ten reviewer/curators. The ten artists selected for the 2010 *Discoveries* exhibit are:

Andy Freeberg, (Mill Valley, CA), selected by **Karen Sinsheimer**, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

Judy Haberl, (Newtonville, MA), selected by **Rhonda Wilson**, Rhubarb-Rhubarb, Birmingham, UK

Liz Hickok, (San Francisco, CA), selected by **Rixson Reed**, Photo-eye, Santa Fe, NM

Emma Livingston, (Buenos Aires, Argentina), selected by **Darren Ching & Debra Klomp Ching**, KlompChing Gallery, NY

Toby Morris, (Los Angeles, CA), selected by **Charles Stainback**, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL

Rachel Papo, (Brooklyn, NY), selected by **Christopher Tannert**, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin

Dona Schwartz, (Minneapolis, MN), selected by **William Ewing**, Musee de l’Esee, Lausanne, Switzerland

Chris Sims, (Efland, NC), selected by **Pippa Oldfield**, Impressions Gallery, Bradford, UK

Sara Terry, (Los Angeles, CA), selected by **Sue Brisk**, Magnum Photo, NY

Ion Zupcu, (Hopewell Junction, NY), selected by **Madeline Yale**, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX

FOTOFEST CURATORIAL FORUMS

“Issues of contemporary curatorship are an important part of the FotoFest 2010 Biennial,” says Ms. Watriss. “Parallel to the exhibitions, there will be a series of four public **Curatorial Dialogues** with FotoFest’s invited curators and two **Symposia** on contemporary curating.” Details and panelists will be announced later this fall.

FOTOFEST PARTICIPATING SPACES

FotoFest’s exhibitions are joined by over 100 other independent exhibitions at venues across Houston, Galveston, and surrounding counties participating in the FotoFest 2010 Biennial. Participating Spaces include the city’s major museums and commercial galleries, non-profit spaces, artist-run spaces, corporate spaces, and retail establishments that choose to exhibit photographic art as part of the FotoFest Biennial. In 2008 over 120 spaces participated in the Biennial by exhibiting photo-related art. The list of the FotoFest 2010 Biennial Participating Spaces (as of October 1, 2009) is:

Museums

Museum of Fine Arts Houston; The Menil Collection; Holocaust Museum Houston; Blaffer Gallery, The Art Museum of the University of Houston; Houston Museum of Natural Science; Museum of Printing History

Commercial Art Galleries

Inman Gallery; Sicardi Gallery; McClain Gallery; John Cleary Gallery; McMurtrey Gallery; Moody Gallery; De Santos Gallery; Anya Tish Gallery; Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc; Bering and James; Poissant Gallery; Redbud Gallery; Goldesberry Gallery; Gremillion & Co. Fine Art; Archway Gallery; Betz Gallery; DARKE Gallery; 18 Hands Gallery; Designworks; Elder Street Gallery; G Gallery; H Gallery; Next Wall Gallery; The Olive Gallery; Seaside Gallery; Thornwood Gallery; Upstairs Room with a View Gallery

Non-Profit Art Spaces

DiverseWorks Art Space; Galveston Arts Center; Houston Center for Photography; Lawndale Art Center; Art Car Museum; Box13 Artspace; space125gallery at the Houston Arts Alliance; Architecture Center Houston (ArCH); The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake; Art Guild of Rural Texas; Buffalo Bayou ArtPark; MECA (Multicultural Education & Counseling through the Arts); Spacetaker; Talento Bilingue de Houston Cultural Arts Center

University Art Spaces

Rice Media Center; Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture Gallery at the University of Houston; The Norma R. Ory Gallery at The Glassell School of Art; Annex Gallery at Houston Community College Southwest; The Art Institute of Houston; LSC Kingwood - Art Gallery; Fine Arts Gallery, Lone Star College-North Harris; Northline Art Gallery, Houston Community College NE

Non-Profit Spaces

Alzheimer’s Association, Houston & SE Texas Chapter; Havens Center, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church; The Heritage Society; The Jung Center of Houston; The Methodist Hospital Dunn Tower Mezzanine Gallery; Russian Cultural Center of “Our Texas”; Thoreau Unitarian Universalists Congregation; UTMSH Art Wall; Xnihilo Gallery

Corporate Spaces

Bank of America Center (exhibition organized by Kinzelman Art Consulting); Gensler (exhibition organized by Kinzelman Art Consulting); 230 Westcott; BNIM; Rodom Medical Consulting

Artist Studios

Gabriella Nissen Photography; Green House Gallery; Hardy & Nancy Street Studio Complex; The Joanna

Retail, Commercial and Restaurant Spaces

The Artful Corner; AZ Lab and Giclee Gallery; Casa Ramirez Folkart; Gallery 1724; The H Gallery (located inside Hungry’s Cafe & Bistro); Mixed Emotions Fine Art; Picnic; The Raven Grill

FOTOFEST 2010 BIENNIAL WORKSHOPS

For working artists, arts professionals, art lovers and the public, FotoFest is sponsoring two media Workshops as part of the FotoFest 2010 Biennial. The workshops bring media and marketing experts, artists, curators and editors together to share their expertise and experience in art, the internet, social media networks, and multi-media platforms. FotoFest Workshops connect with the Meeting Place Portfolio Reviews at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown Houston. Registration for the Workshops is \$75, (\$50 for Meeting Place Registrants and students). Forms are available for download at www.fotofest.org/biennial2010.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 - *Beyond Print: Using New Media to Reach the Global Art Market*

Presenters include Mary Virginia Swanson and Katrina d'Autremont with Museum and Gallery Curators, Photo Editors, Publishers, and Founders of Online Art Sites

Websites, e-mail, e-newsletter to blogs, social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter all represent potential promotional tools. This range of marketing tools enable artists and arts professionals today to introduce their work to the world. This seminar shows how to establish an exciting and effective online presence.

Sunday, March 21, 2010 - *Multimedia Storytelling: Narrative and Conceptual Art*

Presenter Brian Storm – MediaStorm (<http://mediastorm.org>)

Emmy-winning multi-media producer and founder of MediaStorm, Brian Storm shows how the digital media is expanding the way art can be seen and distributed. The workshop provides an overview to multi-media production and shows how top photographers are redefining their work to incorporate interactivity, animation, audio and video for dissemination across multiple platforms.

SPONSORS (as of February 17, 2010)

The Houston Endowment, Inc; The Cullen Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; The Brown Foundation, Inc; JPMorgan Chase; ROMA; The Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation; City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Doubletree Hotel Houston Downtown; Texas Commission on the Arts; The Clayton Fund; Trust for Mutual Understanding; Continental Airlines - The Official Airline of the FotoFest 2010 Biennial; Iland Internet Solutions; HexaGroup; The Tasting Room/Max's Wine Dive; Under the Volcano; Saint Arnold Brewing Company; The Wortham Foundation; American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP); Vine Street Studios; The Anchorage Foundation; Brookfield Properties; Williams Tower Gallery. Media Partners: Art in America; KUHF 88.7 FM; European Photography; Paris Photo

ROMA is the exclusive framer for the FotoFest 2010 Biennial.

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For more information on the FotoFest 2010 Biennial, please visit www.fotofest.org.

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Nicole Belle, *Untitled*, 2008
from the FotoFest 2010 Biennial exhibition
Assembly: Eight Emerging Photographers from Southern California

ABOUT FOTOFEST

The FotoFest Biennial is the first international Biennial of Photography and Photo-related Art in the United States. Through the FotoFest Biennial and its year-round art programs, FotoFest is known as a platform for art and ideas, combining museum-quality art with important social and aesthetic issues. FotoFest curated exhibitions give priority to the works of important but little-known photographic artists from the U.S. and around the world.

Founded in 1983 and based in Houston, Texas, FotoFest is a non-profit organization promoting photographic arts and education. FotoFest is recognized for its discovery and presentation of important talent, contemporary and historical, from around the world, its commitment to presenting important social ideas through the photographic arts, its groundbreaking exhibitions and its portfolio review program, The International Meeting Place. FotoFest has curated and commissioned exhibitions of photo-based art from Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. In addition to year-round art exhibitions and programming, FotoFest's school-based education program, Literacy Through Photography, uses photography to stimulate visual literacy, writing and analytical thinking.

FOTOFEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gregory M. Spier, President; Fred Baldwin, Chairman; David Ayers; Karen Bering; Blair Bouchier; Michael A. Casey; Krista Dumas; Slavka B. Glaser; Carola Herrin; Mavis P. Kelsey, Jr.; James C. Kempner; Meg King Murray; Laura Nolden; John Parsley; Alice Thomas; Fletcher Thorne-Thomsen Jr.; Phuong Tranvan; Anne Wilkes Tucker; Wendy Watriss



Hank Willis Thomas,
Are You the Right Kind of Woman For It, from the series *Unbranded*, 1974/2007
from the FotoFest 2010 Biennial exhibition *Whatever was Splendid*,
Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery