

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

For Immediate Release: 4 September 2014

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Photographs Spanning Three Centuries Come Together in *PhotoVision*

Chapel Hill, NC — The Ackland Art Museum has the distinction of holding North Carolina’s leading collection of photographs, covering the history of the medium as an art form from its beginnings in the late 1830s to the present. Of the more than 2,000 photographs in the Ackland’s rich collection, more than 500 have been added in the last decade.

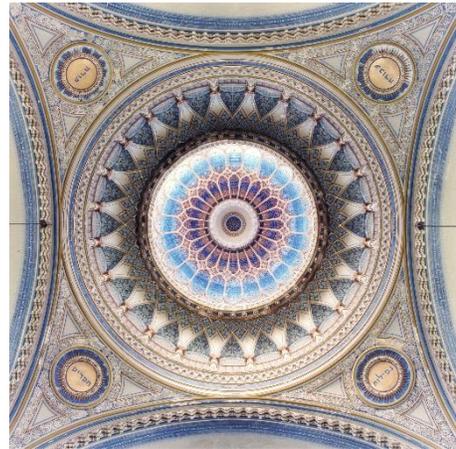
Over 150 selections from these recently acquired photographic works have been brought together for *PhotoVision: Selections from a Decade of Collecting*, opening to the public on 19 September 2014.

“The photographs in this exhibition are first and foremost presented as individual works of art, as each has its own aesthetic power,” says Ackland chief curator and interim director Peter Nisbet. “Whether beautiful, intriguing, or sublime, every photograph in *PhotoVision* is worthy of sustained attention.”

From salted paper prints and daguerreotypes to gelatin silver prints and digital inkjet prints, *PhotoVision* includes works by such prominent photographers as Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, Richard Avedon, Mathew Brady, Julia Margaret Cameron, Philippe Halsman, Pieter Hugo, Nikki S. Lee, George Platt Lynes, Nicholas Nixon, Sandy Skoglund, Hiroshi Sugimoto, William Henry Fox Talbot, and Andy Warhol, among many others.

Organized by evocative groupings, the chosen photographs present the myriad intents and processes behind, and effects of, this powerful medium.

- “Again and Again and Again” explores photographic multiplicity
- “Process and Product” offers examples of a wide range of historical and modern photographic techniques
- “Staging the Image” deals with the artificiality of photography and its constructed or manipulated images
- “Sacred Spaces” presents photographs of sites of spiritual significance
- A “Daisy Chain” links a heterogeneous group of photographs into a continuous, associational sequence



In addition, photographs from the Ackland's collection are specially installed in each of the Museum's eight permanent collection galleries, juxtaposed in thought-provoking ways with African, Asian, and Western paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts.

PhotoVision is organized by Peter Nisbet, interim director and chief curator, with Lauren Turner, curatorial assistant.

"We're now 175 years from the announcement of the discovery of photography, and the pervasiveness of photographs in our age of camera phones, image-sharing apps, and media saturation is self-evident," says Nisbet. "This very ubiquity can stimulate curiosity about the evolution of the medium, anxiety about which images are worth preserving, and enthusiasm about the medium's seemingly inexhaustible potential. *PhotoVision* is presented with these questions, reactions, and emotions in mind."

In connection with *PhotoVision*, the Ackland also presents *Adding to the Mix 8: William H. Mumler's "Mrs. W. H. Mumler, Clairvoyant Physician" (1870s)*, an exhibition focusing on the Ackland's recent acquisition of a nineteenth-century spirit photograph by the foremost American practitioner of commercial spirit photography. The makers of spirit photographs claimed to capture images documenting supernatural presences. This example, the first of its kind in the Ackland collection, is presented alongside paintings and prints in which artists of various media and cultures have attempted to visualize the indescribable forces purported to make up other planes of being.



MEDIA PREVIEW

Thursday, 18 September 2014, 10:00 AM

RSVP to Emily Bowles, Director of Communications, 919.843.3675, esbowles@email.unc.edu

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Celebration

Thursday, 18 September 2014, 6:30-8:00 PM

All are welcome to celebrate the opening of *PhotoVision*.

Dawn 'til Dusk Community Day: Focus on Photography

Saturday, 11 October 2014, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Young and old are invited to the Ackland for a day of creation and exploration around the theme of photography. Hands-on workshops, tours, and a food-truck picnic are just a few of the fun-filled activities planned for this *PhotoVision*-inspired day.

Many more free public programs related to *PhotoVision*, including an eight-part film series, lunchtime talks, and conversational exhibition tours, may be found at http://tiny.cc/PhotoVision_Programs.



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

PhotoVision and its accompanying programming are made possible in part by the generous support of James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach, The Joseph F. McCrindle Foundation Endowment Fund for Conservation, Strowd Roses, Inc., and Classic.

The Ackland Art Museum receives substantial operating support from the Office of the Provost of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The William Hayes Ackland Trust, The Ackland General Endowment, The Academic Programs Endowment (including funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), The Charles and Isabel P. Eaton Trust, The Henry W. Lewis Fund, The Charles J. Morrow II Endowment Fund, The Charles M. and Shirley Weiss Endowment Fund, The Ackland Security Endowment, and the Friends of the Ackland Art Museum.

PhotoVision is part of Click! Triangle Photography Festival, October 2014.

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About the Ackland

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 17,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

Admission and Hours

Admission to the Ackland Art Museum is always free, with donations accepted.

The Ackland is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Location

The Ackland Art Museum is located on South Columbia Street, just south of East Franklin Street, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Detailed directions are available at www.ackland.org or by calling 919.966.5736.

Parking is available at several nearby municipal and private parking decks, and at meters on Franklin Street. Detailed parking information and a map are available at www.parkonthehill.com.

Images:

David Stephenson, American and Australian, born 1955: *Dome #30705*, New Synagogue, Szeged, Hungary, 2000, printed 2004; c-print. ©2000 David Stephenson. Ackland Fund, 2006.17.1.

John Loengard, American, born 1934: *Photographer Arnold Newman Holds his 1946 Negative of Igor Stravinsky*, 1994, printed 2013; gelatin silver print. ©1994 John Loengard. Ackland Fund, 2014.12.

William H. Mumler, American, 1832-1884: *Mrs. W. H. Mumler, Clairvoyant Physician*, 1870s; albumen print mounted to carte-de-visite with letterpress printing on verso. Ackland Fund, 2014.24.

Michael Wolf, German, born 1954: *Tokyo Compression #55*, 2010; archival inkjet print. ©2010 Michael Wolf. Ackland Fund, 2012.12.