

# ACKLAND



## **The Ackland Art Museum at UNC-Chapel Hill invites participation in “Lost and Found: Stories for Vernacular Photographs” exhibition with photo caption and story contest**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Chapel Hill, N.C. — Oct. 23, 2019) — Today, the Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announced a participatory exhibition that displays vernacular photographs alongside visitor-generated stories inspired by the works on view. “Lost and Found: Stories for Vernacular Photographs” opens Friday, Dec. 13, for a brief run through Jan. 12, 2020.

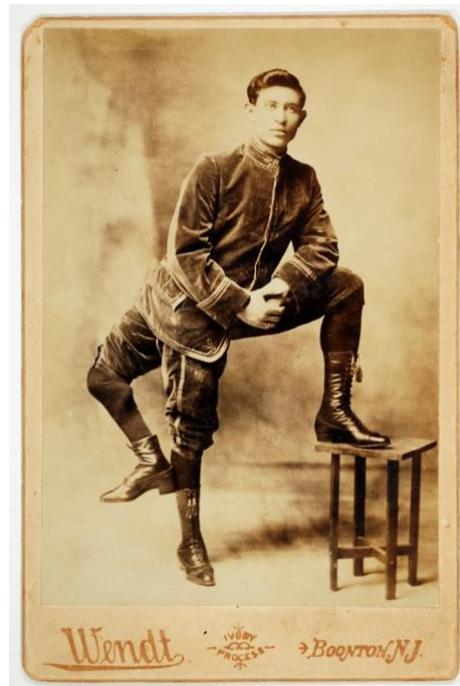
The 70 photographs displayed in “Lost and Found: Stories for Vernacular Photographs” include formats as wide-ranging as cyanotypes, which are similar to blueprints, and cabinet cards, or thin photographs mounted on cards for exchange and display.

Lauren Turner, assistant curator for the collection, says that vernacular photographs “can intrigue, provoke, and irritate through their lack of contextual information. Without basic identifiers like named subjects, makers, and creation dates, vernacular photographs are often discussed and appreciated mostly in terms of technique, aesthetic composition, and their ‘outsider’ status. However, ‘Lost and Found’ invites viewers to flex their own creative muscles and supply new narratives for the exhibited snapshots. Just as the photographs themselves have been relegated to the world of flea markets and

eBay and later rediscovered by avid collectors and museums, so too can their lost narratives be replaced by newfound stories and captions.”

“Lost and Found” is the first public exhibition of a focused collection of vernacular photography the Ackland Art Museum has assembled over the past two years working with noted alumnus collector Robert E. Jackson ’78 (MA).

Twenty photographs from the exhibition will be shared online in advance as part of an open contest to submit captions and short stories in response to the images. Selected submissions will be displayed in the gallery from the opening of the exhibition. Visitors will be invited to add responses to all 70 photographs throughout the duration of the show. “Lost and Found” will invite communities to celebrate the potential of vernacular photographs and stimulate their storytelling imaginations.



[Click here for high-resolution images and an exhibition checklist for “Lost and Found.”](#)

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**About the Ackland Art Museum:** Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum on UNC-Chapel Hill’s historic campus is a local museum with a global outlook that bridges campus and community. Admission to the Ackland is free and accessible to all. The Ackland’s holdings include over 19,000 works of art. The collection spans all cultures and time periods, showcasing the breadth of human creativity. A vital teaching resource, the museum’s mission is the art of understanding. Visitors can connect with the complexity and beauty of the wider world by getting close to art—the familiar, the unexpected, the challenging. The Ackland Art Museum is located at 101 South Columbia St. on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. Museum hours are Wednesday through

Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, and Sundays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The museum is open until 9 p.m. for Chapel Hill-Carrboro's monthly 2nd Friday ArtWalk. More information is available at [ackland.org](http://ackland.org).

Image credits:

Unidentified artist, American, "Girl Throwing Football," 1971, color photographic print, 3 7/8 × 5 7/16 in. (9.9 × 13.8 cm). Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ackland Fund, 2018.23.27.

Frank Wendt, American, active c. 1899, "Man with Three Legs," c. 1899, cabinet card photograph, 6 7/16 × 4 1/4 in. (16.4 × 10.8 cm). Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ackland Fund, 2019.33.33.