



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MoCP Museum of
Contemporary
Photography

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO



LETTER FROM THE MoCP ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

During the 2019–2020 season, the MoCP has proven itself to be adaptive and agile. I want to first extend a note of thanks to our incredible Advisory Board members, who have worked even harder this year to support our museum, even in the face of change and uncertainty in the world around us.

In February, our annual DARKROOM benefit was a tremendous success. This year’s co-chairs Cheryl Sandner and Ann Thompson with honorary co-chairs Jeremy Efrogmson, Elissa Hamid Efrogmson, and Adnaan Hamid, organized an incredible event, honoring Silver

Camera Awardee and Chicago art legend Kenneth Josephson.

The museum has curated exhibitions this past year that have touched on incredibly pertinent issues such as artificial intelligence and Puerto Rican protest, along with shows demonstrating the vitality, strength, and internationalism of our permanent collection.

I am so thrilled, along with all the rest of the Advisory Board, to continue to shape the museum’s strategic direction. As the museum develops and expands in the years to come, we look forward to seeing how the

MoCP adapts in new and exciting ways. On behalf of the Advisory Board, thank you to all involved in ensuring our museum’s current and future success.

Robert A. Wislow
Advisory Board Chair



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



efforts for the museum. In other transitions, we are also excited for our Museum Council President Genia Yovankin to move to our Advisory Board, where I am certain she will make a significant contribution.

While this year posed numerous challenges, we worked hard to provide educational content and public programs during our closure. Introducing Photos at Zoom (a digital extension of our Photos at Noon in-person series) and MoCP Behind the Lens, we have drawn international audiences to programs conducted via webinar. It has been inspiring to see how we have been able to deepen existing connections and create new ones by strengthening our digital initiatives. Even now that we have reopened—and have introduced a number of new safety precautions to maintain a safe environment for visitors and staff alike—we are continuing to implement varied online initiatives to promote increased engagement and learning.

The world is constantly changing and our museum continues to adapt. I am so proud of our nimble team for taking on new digital projects to serve our audiences. I am also extremely grateful for the continued support of the MoCP Advisory Board members, Museum Council members, artists, and benefactors—thank you!

Natasha Egan
Executive Director

In this year of unprecedented change, the MoCP has worked hard to make connections with our audience—through digital programs, through a safe reopening, and through timely exhibitions that speak to issues that are most pressing in our world today. This theme of connectivity has always driven our institution, and will continue to do so, even during times where we are physically keeping our distance.

During the 2019–2020 exhibition season, the museum welcomed over 40,000 visitors and over 16,000 people have virtually engaged with us through our online programming since March. We mounted four incredible exhibitions this year including *Go Down Moses*, a collection show curated by acclaimed writer, photographer, and critic Teju Cole, which presented a reinterpretation of the MoCP’s permanent collection exploring themes of movement, chaos, freedom, and hope. *Third Realm* pointed to the depth and global reach of the MoCP’s holdings, while *In Real*

Life presented a glimpse into the world of machine learning and artificial intelligence in the age of surveillance.

Curatorial fellow Dalina Aimée Perdomo Álvarez completed the final year of her fellowship with the powerful exhibition *Temporal: Puerto Rican Resistance*. While the opening of the exhibition was delayed until July, the exhibition drew many people to the museum to explore timely issues affecting Puerto Rico. Dalina did wonderful work increasing the scope of the MoCP exhibitions and collection to explore the Latinx experience, and her contributions to the MoCP will be long-lasting. While we will miss Dalina, we are thrilled to welcome our new curatorial fellow Asha Iman Veal, who will work closely with our curatorial team organizing exhibitions and acquisitions. In other staff news, we are also pleased to welcome Rachel Cantzler as our new associate director of development, who will work with Columbia’s department of development to increase fundraising





LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Even in this year of uncertainty, the Museum Council has continued to be a source of member engagement and innovative programming designed to expand the reach of the museum. As the MoCP's auxiliary group devoted to connecting those passionate about contemporary art and photography, the Museum Council has remained committed to supporting the museum, both in-person and digitally.

Throughout the year, the council has conducted a variety of activities and public events that have been engaging and unique. Last fall, the Museum Council hosted a very successful MoCP After Dark in conjunction with the exhibition *Third Realm*, wherein attendees explored the museum in a new light, while enjoying the music of DJ Rae Chardonay. The council appreciates the generous support of donors, museum staff, student interns, council members, and attendees in making events like these a great success. The Museum Council also enjoyed many gatherings and field trips earlier in the fiscal year, such as visiting fellow members' home art collections and participating in spirited conversations about photography.

As I transition from my role as Museum Council President to a member of the Advisory Board, I want to thank the Museum Council members—what a pleasure it has been to spend the last seven years on the council with you. Also, I would like to give a warm welcome to the new Executive Team: Jasmine Kwong, President of the Museum Council, Thomas Hellstrom, Vice President, and Lindsay Widell, Marketing Chair. I know you all are so talented and best wishes for a successful year!

Genia Yovankin
Museum Council President



Crack Rodriguez
VW ON, 2012

EXHIBITIONS



Birdhead
Untitled from the *Xin Cun* series, 2007

GO DOWN MOSES

JULY 18 – SEPTEMBER 29, 2019



The exhibition *Go Down Moses* was guest curated by Teju Cole. An acclaimed writer, photographer, and critic, Cole is the former photography critic of the New York Times Magazine and is currently the Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of Creative Writing at Harvard University. This was his first major curatorial project.

Go Down Moses presented a reinterpretation of the MoCP's permanent collection that could be understood as a visual tone poem of contemporary America, exploring elemental themes of movement, chaos, freedom, and hope. In doing so, Cole used the photographic archive to interweave the past and present, suggesting an aesthetic approach to understanding the current psyche.

Go Down Moses by Teju Cole was coordinated by Karen Irvine, chief curator and deputy director.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Teen Night, July 24, 2019

Chicago teens were invited to participate in teen-led workshops.

Photos at Noon

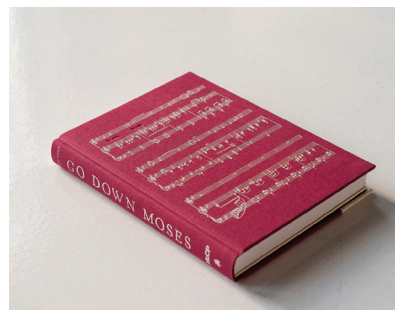
Recent Acquisitions, July 26, 2019

Viewer's Choice, August 16, 2019

This series of public print viewings were led by Kristin Taylor, MoCP's curator of academic programs and collections. Participants learned about some of the museum's best works that are normally behind closed doors during these public sessions.

Eighth Blackbird, September 10, 2019

The Chicago-based, four-time Grammy winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird gave a special performance at the MoCP. The ensemble led a multi-sensory, interactive performance that responded to the visual imagery of the exhibition sonically.



Lecture in Photography: Teju Cole Writing and Thinking Photography September 26, 2019

Go Down Moses curator Teju Cole gave a public lecture about his various photographic practices. Drawing on his experiences as a photographer, critic, teacher, curator and juror, Cole considered the ways we assess pictures and the possibilities for photography in a time of image saturation.

PUBLICATION

This original publication accompanying the exhibition features reproductions of key images, as well as an interview with Cole and MoCP Chief Curator and Deputy Director Karen Irvine about his curatorial process.

Interview by Teju Cole and Karen Irvine
Produced by Candor Arts, Chicago, IL
Published by Candor Arts and the Museum of Contemporary Photography
Designed by Matt Austin and Melanie Teresa Bohrer

PRESS FOR GO DOWN MOSES APPEARED IN:

WBEZ, The Guardian, Chicago Magazine, Newcity, Aperture

THIRD REALM

OCTOBER 10 – DECEMBER 22, 2019



ARTISTS

- Birdhead
- Cao Fei
- Heman Chong
- Comfortable Collective
- FX Harsono
- Jompet Kuswidananto
- Lu Yang
- Sutee Kunavichayanon
- Surasi Kusolwong
- Gary Ross Pastrana
- Paola Pivi
- Sun Xun
- Apichatpong Weerasethakul
- Xijing Men
- Yang Zhenzhong
- Zhou Xiaohu

Third Realm presented contemporary Asian art from the FarEastFarWest collection, a Shanghai-based organization that commissions and acquires contemporary Asian artworks and is housed at the MoCP. Capturing a crucial period of artistic production in Asia (2004–2019), *Third Realm* included works by artists who use photography, film, installation, and performance to investigate liminal spaces. Covering a range of conceptual modalities and cultural contexts, these works disrupt binaries—of global and local, present

and historical, spiritual and secular. Featuring artists predominantly from China, as well as Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Indonesia, *Third Realm* connected works from across East and Southeast Asia to present a comprehensive view of contemporary Asian art that, while conceptually grappling with shared themes, is still resistant to broad categorization.

Third Realm was guest curated by David Quadrio.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Curatorial Tour and Gallery Talk October 11, 2019

Guest curator Davide Quadrio led a special tour of *Third Realm*. Exhibiting artist Jompet Kuswidananto was present to discuss his work.

Video Playlist November 13, 2019

Video Playlist is a recurring series of one-night public video screenings programmed in response to MoCP exhibitions. Nicky Ni, a specialist in contemporary experimental Asian video art, curated a screening of moving image work exploring ritual and performance by artists from China and Southeast Asia.

Photos at Noon: Contemporary Photography in China and Beyond November 15, 2019

In this session, works from the FarEastFarWest Collection were shared as well as other highlights in the collection made by artists based in China or who are creating works about China.

Teen Night November 20, 2019

Chicago teens were invited to engage in creative interactive workshops and reflect on themes of the exhibitions.

PRESS FOR THIRD REALM APPEARED IN:

Chicago Tribune, Aesthetica, Time Out Chicago

PUBLICATION

This original zine accompanying the exhibition features reproductions of key images, as well as an essay and additional texts by curator Davide Quadrio.

Text by Davide Quadrio
Published by the Museum of Contemporary Photography
Designed by JNL Design, Chicago, IL



IN REAL LIFE

JANUARY 16 – MARCH 13, 2020

As the powerful technology behind artificial intelligence grows more sophisticated, machines have developed the capacity to not only capture images but to “see” them as well. *In Real Life* was an exhibition seeking to examine the real-world impact of computer vision—from the murky ethics of data collection and surveillance to the racial and gender biases that abound in facial recognition technology.

Through the lens of seven artists working with a range of digital media, *In Real Life* presented works that grapple with the fraught relationship between humans and technology, with an emphasis on the social and aesthetic ramifications of machine “seeing.” With a charged underpinning of human biases, these pieces, many of which were generated through algorithmic technology, present a speculative near-future wherein the socio-political consequences of AI have already begun to compromise how we visualize the world—and our humanity.

In Real Life was curated by MoCP executive director Natasha Egan.

ARTISTS

Stephanie Dinkins	Maija Tammi	Xu Bing
Trevor Paglen	José Orlando Villatoro	Liam Young
Leo Selvaggio		



Maija Tammi
One of them is Human #1 (Erica), 2017

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Dragonfly Eyes Screening with Xu Bing February 4, 2020

Artist Xu Bing joined the MoCP for a very special screening of his feature film *Dragonfly Eyes* (2017). Composed from more than 10,000 hours of footage culled from surveillance databases and websites, the video integrates actual fragments of contemporary life to weave together a fictional narrative shedding light on image-making, fame, and self-surveillance in the digital age. This screening was followed by a Q&A with the artist.

Teen Night with Leo Selvaggio February 20, 2020

Chicago teens were invited to join exhibiting artist Leo Selvaggio for a special artmaking workshop.

Lecture in Photography: Stephanie Dinkins February 13, 2020

Exhibiting artist Stephanie Dinkins is known for creating platforms for dialogue about artificial intelligence (AI) as it intersects race, gender, aging, and our future histories. She is particularly driven to work with communities of color to co-create more inclusive, fair and ethical artificial intelligent ecosystems.

Public Tour and Gallery Talk with Leo Selvaggio February 21, 2020

Exhibiting artist Leo Selvaggio led an exhibition tour and gallery talk.

PRESS FOR IN REAL LIFE APPEARED IN:

Freethink, Chicago Tribune, LENS CRATCH, Newcity

TEMPORAL: PUERTO RICAN RESISTANCE

JULY 7 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

Temporal: Puerto Rican Resistance explored Puerto Rico’s contemporary history as a United States territory. The exhibition traces the continued impact of three recent major events: the enactment of the US federal law titled the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) in 2016, the US response to Hurricane María’s landfall on the island in 2017, and the mass protests in July 2019 that forced the governor’s resignation.

Temporal took its name from a Puerto Rican plena song, which roughly translates to “storm.” Plena, a style of music with Afro-Caribbean origins dating back to the early 1900s, has been referred to as the “sung newspaper” of the people and often incorporated into protests chants on the island. The exhibition followed in the storytelling style of this traditional Puerto Rican musical genre, showcasing documentation of protests, life during and after María, and art of the resistance.

Temporal was organized by MoCP curatorial fellow for diversity in the arts Dalina Aimée Perdomo Álvarez.

ARTISTS

- Christopher Gregory-Rivera
- Natalia Lassalle-Morillo
- Mari B. Robles López
- Eduardo Martínez
- Ojos Nebulosos
- Adriana Parrilla
- Dennis M. Rivera Pichardo
- Erika P. Rodríguez
- Edra Soto
- SUPAKID
- Rogelio Báez Vega

PRESS FOR TEMPORAL APPEARED IN:

Chicago Sun-Times, Remezcla, NBC Chicago, WTTW Chicago Tonight, Newcity



Dennis M. Rivera Pichardo,
Last night without power, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, July 12, 2018, 2018

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Behind the Lens: Christopher Gregory-Rivera May 29, 2020

Photographer Christopher Gregory-Rivera gave a virtual sneak peek into his studio and discussed his photographic projects in Puerto Rico and the Americas, which are particularly interested in examining the residue of power and colonialism.

Edra Soto Virtual Gallery Talk July 24, 2020

Exhibiting artist Edra Soto went on Instagram Live for a special virtual gallery talk.

Behind the Lens: Erika P. Rodríguez August 14, 2020

Documentary photographer Erika P. Rodríguez Parrilla gave a virtual sneak peek into her studio and discussed her photography, which explores topics of community, identity, and countering the stereotypical representation of the Caribbean.

Behind the Lens: Natalia Lassalle-Morillo August 21, 2020

Natalia Lassalle-Morillo is a theater maker, filmmaker, visual artist, performer and educator. Her work melds documentary, fiction and performance in order to

decentralize traditional canonical narratives and reimagine our perspective on individual and collective histories.

Kiskeya Salón: Habla Más Que Tu Boca es Tuya August 27 & September 3, 2020

During Part I, Ojos Nebulosos discussed how the Dominican women who raised her shaped her installation in *Temporal: Puerto Rican Resistance*. In Part II, Ojos Nebulosos and Alanis De La Cruz discussed how being women of Dominican descent influences their work. This conversation was moderated by writer Celia M. Ayala Lugo.

Plena Combativa Virtual Concert September 8, 2020

Plena Combativa gave an exclusive livestreamed virtual concert. Based in Puerto Rico, Plena Combativa is a political-feminist musical project that uses the Puerto Rican Plena as a tool for protest.

Behind the Lens: Adriana Parrilla September 18, 2020

Exhibiting photographer Adriana Parrilla gave a virtual sneak peek into her studio and discussed her work, which centers on themes of identity construction, race, and resilience.

LECTURES IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Every semester, the MoCP and the Photography Department at Columbia College Chicago join together to present Lectures in Photography. A selection of prominent artists, curators, and art historians from around the world are invited to present public lectures for Columbia students and staff and the larger Chicago and Midwest arts communities. The mission of this series is to shape and enliven the discourse around photography through our programming. The following lecturers were featured during the 2019–2020 season.



SUPAKID
Combo Familiar, 2017

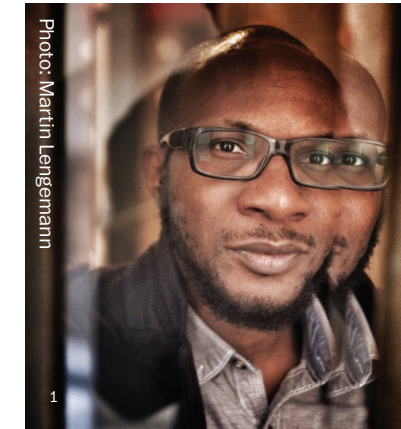
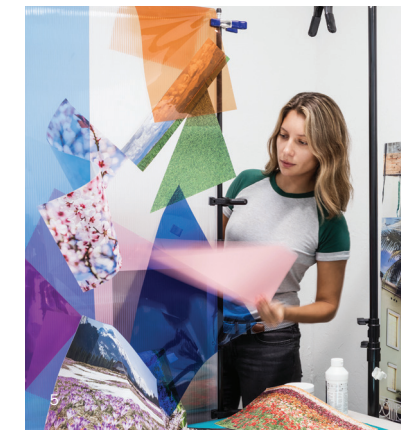


Photo: Martin Lengemann



Photo: Jay Adams



LECTURERS

1 Teju Cole, Writer, Curator, Artist, and Critic September 26, 2019

2 Stanley Wolukau-Wanambwa, Artist, Writer, and Editor October 9, 2019

3 Jessica Labatte, Artist November 21, 2019

4 Stephanie Dinkins, Artist February 13, 2020

5 Anastasia Samoylova, Artist April 23, 2020

6 Sarah Meister, Curator, Department of Photography, Museum of Modern Art May 13, 2020

PERMANENT COLLECTION

The MoCP continues to build its strong collection, which currently houses 16,053 objects by 1776 artists. As part of Columbia College Chicago, the museum takes particular pride in the accessibility of our comprehensive collection and opens its archives to students, educators, and the public so that they may have the opportunity to research original objects. Collection works are also exhibited and loaned internationally.

FY 2020 ACQUISITIONS

Aziz & Cucher	Melissa Guevara	Laura Letinsky	Edward W. Quigley	Matthew Swarts
Marsha "Red" Adams	Roberto Guidotti	Ellen Land-Weber	Tony Ray Jones	Maija Tammi
Hanif Abdur-Rahim	Charles Harbutt	Martina Lopez	Abigail Reyes	Alan Teller
Akinbode Akinbiyi	Robert Heinecken	Tanya Marcuse	RES and Constanza Piaggio	Brad Temkin
Laylah Amatullah Barrayn	Omar Iman	Devin Mays	John Riddy	Joyce Tenneson
Shimon Attie	Joseph Jachna	Willie Middlebrook	Crack Rodriguez	Alan Thomas
Dmitri Baltermants	Dominika Jackuliaková	Sandro Miller	Sebastiao Salgado	Sonja Thomsen
Miles Barth	Nadie Javier Ramirez	Madhuban Mitra and Manas Bhattacharya	Anastasia Samoylova	Peter Turnley
Marion Belanger	Eirik Johnson	Zora J Murff	David Seltzer	Iké Udé
Zeke Berman	Kenneth Josephson	Patrick Nagatani	Izdeyar Setna	Burk Uzzle
Mary Berridge	Priya Kambli	Yamini Nayar	Fern Shaffer and	Victor Vazquez
Reva Brooks	Youngho Kang	Joyce Neimanas	Othello Anderson	Andre Villers
Kevin Bubriski	Thomas Kellner	Nicholas Nixon	John Simmons	Todd Webb
Wynn Bullock	Gyorgy Kepes	Arteh Odidja	Aaron Siskind	Jack Welpott
Ann Burke Daly	Seunggu Kim	Bill Owens	Sandy Skoglund	Edward Weston
Rose Callahan	Lewis Kostiner	Juan Paparella	Patti Smith and Lynn Goldsmith	Brett Weston
Jo Ann Callis	Cal Kowal	Fred R. Parker	Joel Snyder	Jennette Williams
Paul Caponigro	Vilem Kriz	Hetain Patel	Josef Sudek	Sylvia Wolf
Patricia Carroll	Jessica Labatte	Bernard Plossu		Jay Wolke
Daniel Castro Garcia	Marie-Jo Lafontaine			Zhang Wei
Kia Chenelle				
Linda Connor				
Joseph Cornell				
Raul Cottone				
Imogen Cunningham				
Judy Dater				
Adama Delphine Fawundu				
Joshua Dudley Greer				
Donna Ferrato				
Matthew Finley				
Doug Fogelson				
Neil Folberg				
Russell K. Frederick				
Leonard Freed				
Ralph Gibson				
Judith Golden				
Mark Goodman				
Christopher Gregory-Rivera				
Lourdes Grobet				
Argüelles				
David Grossman				



Priya Kambli, *Hairdo from the Shubh Mangal Savdhan series, 2016*

MIDWEST PHOTOGRAPHERS PROJECT

Now in its 38th year, the Midwest Photographers Project (MPP) is a revolving collection of portfolios by 66 established and emerging photographers from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Each portfolio, loaned to the MoCP for a three-year period, represents a body of work from a current or ongoing project. MPP is an unparalleled and extensive resource on contemporary photography, with new portfolios introduced on a rolling basis.

FY 2020 MIDWEST PHOTOGRAPHERS PROJECT ADDITIONS

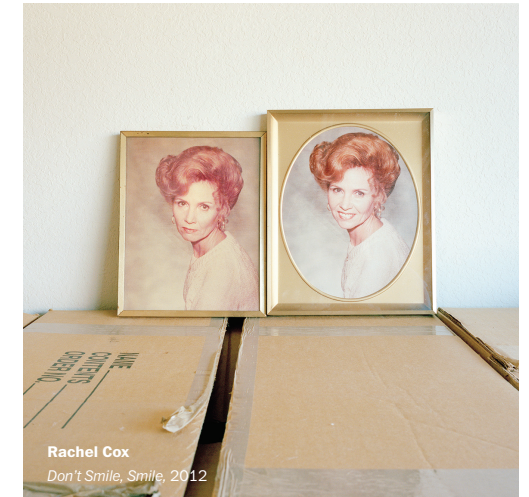
Rachel Cox
Evan Hume
Rebel Betty (Amara Martin)
Jessica Sladek



Jessica Sladek, *Ice Age Trail, 2017*



Rebel Betty, *25th Street, 2017*



Rachel Cox, *Don't Smile, Smile, 2012*



Evan Hume, *Project Oxcart (Pilot), 2019*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Top: Teen Night, Summer 2019

Bottom: Students engage with Heman Chong's installation in the exhibition *Third Realm*

During the 2019–2020 season, the MoCP has presented a range of community engagement programs, especially focused on serving teens in the community, organized in conjunction with our timely and innovative exhibitions. Community engagement initiatives this past season included collaborations with multiple youth-oriented partner organizations such as Marwen and CPS Lives. Teen Nights during *Go Down Moses* and *In Real Life* captured the imaginations of teens in the community through engaging activities and hands-on workshops.

During *In Real Life*, dynamic programs for the community included the AI Assembly dinner, hosted by artist Stephanie Dinkins, in partnership with Columbia College Chicago's office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as Experimental Station, a local nonprofit working to build independent cultural infrastructure on the South Side of Chicago. Twenty-eight leading artists, technologists, academics, and humanists of color met with critical allies in working toward a more fair, ethical, equitable, and inclusive AI protocol from a multiplicity of approaches. The dinner focused on intersectional action and thought around the creation of computational models, their potential impacts, and related policy and political concerns.

During this exhibition, the MoCP also hosted a Teen Workshop with exhibiting artist Leo Selvaggio, where students had the opportunity to create a wearable DIY apparatus for their phones, made from everyday materials. Students then had the chance to engage in conversation on topics of surveillance, technology, and activism.

Also of note during the 2019–2020 season was an ongoing partnership with Marwen's Art at Work summer internship program. During the summer of 2019, teen interns spent six weeks immersed in professional development at the museum, where they learned how to organize, plan, and promote their own Teen Night.

During the MoCP's shutdown in 2020 due to Covid-19, community programs continued in a digital capacity. An example of this was the Cyanotype Workshop hosted by MoCP intern Sheridyn Villarreal, where she gave a live Zoom demonstration aimed for teens on the cyanotype process, revealing how to use sunlight to create prints using found objects and natural materials. While it has been more difficult to engage the community in-person during these difficult times, the museum has been especially adaptive and creative in terms of reaching the Chicago community—as well as communities outside our geographic area—through engaging digital programs.

Whether in-person or online, these diverse offerings have been exciting opportunities to serve, educate, and engage our community—which is a core tenet of the MoCP's mission.

EDUCATION



Graduate intern Jordan Putt leads a print viewing

During the 2019-2020 season, the MoCP has worked hard to educate and engage learners of all ages, both in-person and remotely. The MoCP is especially focused on developing learning programs to best serve Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students, including developing comprehensive digital and printed education guides outlining the themes of the exhibitions, classroom activities, and questions for deeper learning that were developed in alignment with Illinois Learning Standards.

Highlights of this past year have included the success of the bus subsidy program, which brought students to the museum (prior to the impact of Covid-19), who otherwise would not have to resources to come. Another successful in-person educational program was the Education Residency with artist Stephanie Dinkins,

who met with Columbia juniors and seniors studying photography and video production, as well as with students from CPS Advanced Arts and Marwen. She discussed her work as it relates to developing “platforms for dialogue about artificial intelligence (AI) as it intersects race, gender, aging, and our future histories.”

As a teaching institution, the MoCP strives to make its permanent collection accessible to students, educators, researchers in the field, and broader public audiences. Alongside these efforts, the museum employs and trains both undergraduate and graduate students from Columbia to support our everyday operations. All student interns assist with a wide range of tasks that help prepare them to be future museum professionals, from curatorial assistance to the installation of exhibitions.

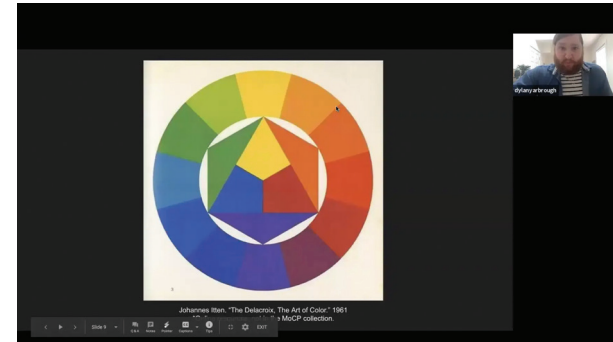
Other educational highlights include the recently established Henry Nias Business in the Arts Fellowship. This fellowship, granted annually to Columbia College Chicago graduate students by the Henry Nias Foundation, allows them to further enhance their skills in arts administration and prepare them to become museum professionals. Working on projects in marketing, development, and arts administration, the Nias Fellow gains skills at the MoCP that aren't readily accessible in the classroom. This unique fellowship is truly preparing the next generation to succeed in their career paths in the arts.

SPOTLIGHT ON MOCP DIGITAL PROGRAMS

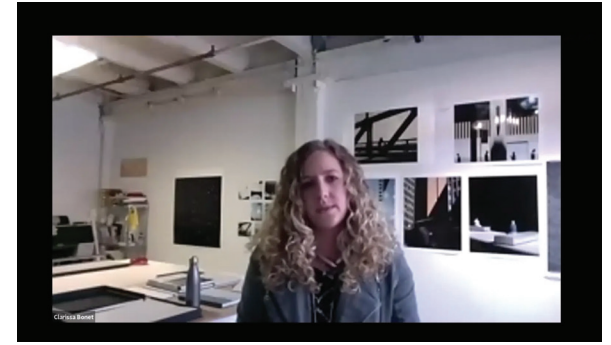
Like cultural institutions across the nation and the world, the museum temporarily closed in March due COVID-19. During that time, MoCP staff quickly transitioned most of the museum's programming to an online platform. This shift allowed for not only larger audiences but also engagement with new participants, and innovative approaches to public programming and education, thus expanding the MoCP's reach beyond what is possible in the museum's physical space. These new digital programs including Photos at Zoom and Behind the Lens, as well as existing digital offerings like our podcast Focal Point, have provided our audience with new ways to experience the museum while at home.



Dawoud Bey and Teju Cole recording an episode of Focal Point in the WCRX studios



Top, Left: Behind the Lens with Cecil McDonald, Jr.
Bottom, Left: Photos at Zoom with graduate intern Dylan Yarbrough



Top, Right: Behind the Lens with Clarissa Bonet
Bottom, Right: Behind the Lens with Mark Klett

FOCAL POINT PODCAST

Last year, the MoCP debuted its very first podcast in conjunction with Columbia College Chicago station WCRX. Focal Point engages curators, artists, and thinkers in conversation around works in the museum's collection. Conversations this year have included Teju Cole and Dawoud Bey; Joanne Leonard and Melissa Ann Pinney; Stanley Wolukau-Wanambwa and Leslie Wilson; Kelli Connell and Kiba Jacobson; and Kenneth Josephson and Marilyn Zimmerwoman.

PHOTOS AT ZOOM

As a result of Covid-19, MoCP has transitioned its Photos at Noon sessions to a digital platform, re-titling the program to Photos at Zoom. These sessions explore the museum's collection with a series of public print viewings on select themes and pulled works from the archive with an aim to engage visitors and students with a virtual print viewing. Students engage by contributing questions and comments in real time over Zoom, and a member of the MoCP education team holds discussions around themes, as well as technical and conceptual approaches behind the work. Topics have included color theory, photographing the domestic, and constructed and staged images.

BEHIND THE LENS

Behind the Lens takes participants virtually behind-the-scenes to photography studios of emerging and establish photographers and explores their practice through conversations about their work and process. Artists featured have included Jay Wolke, Ross Sawyers, Vera Lutter, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo, Carlos Javier Ortiz, Lorenzo Triburgo, Akinbode Akinbiyi, and many others.

All of these programs are archived at mocp.org/events and may be accessed anytime for further engagement.



Right: Dr. Kwang-Wu Kim gives remarks during DARKROOM
Below: Marilyn Zimmerwoman, Kenneth Josephson, Karen Irvine, and Natasha Egan at DARKROOM



DARKROOM Photos: Lisa Gottschalk Photography



Left: DARKROOM 2020 in the Columbia College Chicago Student Center
Below: DJ Rae Chardonnay at MoCP After Dark

DARKROOM

The MoCP's annual benefit DARKROOM was held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at the new Columbia College Chicago Student Center, grossing over \$255,000 to support the museum. Funds raised at DARKROOM provide critical support for the museum's exhibitions, collections, and community engagement initiatives in 2020.

Highlights of the evening included a VIP hour conversation between MoCP curator of academic programs and collections Kristin Taylor and Silver Camera Awardee Kenneth Josephson about his photographic contributions.

Other high points of the evening included a ceremony honoring Josephson with the Silver Camera Award. Sponsored by Related Midwest, the Silver Camera Award honors those who have made a significant contribution to the medium of photography. The presentation was followed by a live auction and a rousing Raise the Paddle, which raised funds to directly support MoCP education initiatives, including expanded teen programs and a bus subsidy program aimed at bringing more Chicago Public School students to the museum from under resourced communities.

Co-chaired by Cheryl Sandner and Ann Thompson with honorary co-chairs Jeremy Efroymson, Elissa Hamid Efroymson, and Adnaan Hamid, DARKROOM 2020 hosted over 300 guests, who enjoyed an elegant evening celebration of photography while supporting the Museum of Contemporary Photography, the only museum of its kind in the region.



MoCP AFTER DARK

A crowd of excited guests came to the MoCP after hours on November 8, 2019 for MoCP After Dark. Against the backdrop of *Third Realm*, guests danced the night away to a DJ set by Rae Chardonnay and enjoyed drinks and savory bites at this annual party hosted by the Museum Council. As always, MoCP After Dark was an energizing evening of art, music, and comradery.

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

THE EFROYMSON FAMILY FUND

For generations, the Efroymsen family has fostered a passionate legacy of philanthropy. Through the Efroymsen Family Fund, their support of the Museum of Contemporary Photography began more than seven years ago, and the impact of their generosity has enabled the museum to remain as the leading forum for the collection, creation, and examination of contemporary photography in the Midwest.

Led by Lori Efroymsen-Aguilera and her two children, Jeremy and Elissa, the Efroymsen Family Fund is a leader in supporting contemporary arts and culture and champions the same values that make the MoCP a unique and vital part of the greater arts community. The fund's annual support enables the museum to plan and curate profound exhibitions with confidence and offer free and innovative education programs.

The Efroymsen Family Fund is also committed to creating opportunity for new and diverse voices through the arts and aligns with the MoCP's dedication to presenting emerging artists who define our time. For Jeremy Efroymsen MFA '98, an alumnus and former trustee of Columbia

College Chicago, providing a platform to foster new, career-launching experiences and opportunities is essential for the next generation of creatives.

"I admire MoCP's commitment to collecting and showcasing works by important contemporary photographers and emerging artists," says Jeremy. "I've had the opportunity to see many great exhibitions at the museum over the years and I think it's wonderful for Columbia to have such a well-respected museum on campus."

From the distinguished legacy of their philanthropy to serving as co-chairs for DARKROOM 2020, the Efroymsen family has had an enduring impact on the MoCP.

"The MoCP is very grateful for the Efroymsen family's dedicated support," says MoCP executive director Natasha Egan. "Their contributions have made a profound impact that will continue to shape the museum in the years to come."



Elissa Hamid Efroymsen (left), Lori Efroymsen-Aguilera, and Jeremy Efroymsen



Catherine Edelman © Paul Elledge Photography

“HENRY NIAS FOUNDATION IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE MoCP AND ITS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS, AND HOPE OUR FELLOWSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO THOSE THAT ARE PART OF THE PROGRAM,”
CATHERINE EDELMAN OF THE HENRY NIAS FOUNDATION.

HENRY NIAS FOUNDATION

The MoCP has been especially grateful to the Henry Nias Foundation for establishing the Henry Nias Business in the Arts Fellowship. This fellowship, granted annually to Columbia College Chicago graduate students, allows them to further enhance their skills in arts administration and prepare them to become museum professionals.

The program has thus far welcomed two exceptional fellows: Mary Schultz (2019–2020) and Micah McCoy (2020–2021). Working on projects in marketing, development, and arts administration, these fellows have gained skills at the MoCP that aren't readily accessible in the classroom. This unique fellowship is truly preparing the next generation to succeed in their career paths in the arts.

"Henry Nias Foundation is pleased to support the MoCP and its efforts to educate the next generation of museum professionals, and hope our fellowship makes a difference to those that are part of the program," said Catherine Edelman of the Henry Nias Foundation.

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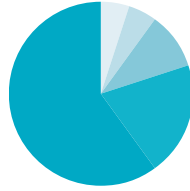
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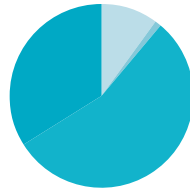
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Anastasia Samoylova
Pink Sidewalk, 2018

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