

**FOTOFOCUS
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OCTOBER 2018**



FOTOFOCUS

INTERMEDIO: In Place of Forgetting

FOTOFOCUS ARTHUB IN WASHINGTON PARK

October 3–7, 2018

Curated by INTERMEDIO

The present seems to flow ceaselessly through the tiny sliver of memory nature allotted us—memories we try to hold onto (if only for a moment) in their vast immensity. It is this ineptness of memory, the apparent smallness of it, that has motivated people throughout history to try and capture it with more permanent and capable mediums. We attempt to hold on to the artifacts of experience by inscribing them on everything around us—on cave walls, stone tablets, animal hides, trees, electrical currents, even the binary spins of electrons themselves.

In Place of Forgetting is an interactive multi-channel audio-visual installation exploring the contemporary overabundance of memory and its impact on the quality of the experiences we attempt to remember. With each repost, recontextualization, reiteration, or translation, a connection to the original moment is further obscured. Viewers traverse this sense of iterative loss through their physical interactions, shaping their experience by sifting through and reassembling text and images sourced from an archive of historical Cincinnati postcards collected by Mark Rohling, Senior Exhibition Designer/Chief Preparator at the Taft Museum of Art. By influencing which fragments of the audio archive are amplified through their action, the visitors evoke new and unique relationships between them, continuously transforming their context. One box tells a story, while its companions speak in counterpoint and a pair on the side hold a conversation. A trio sing in harmony together, their voices echoing the marks of handwriting scribed on the back of each postcard.

INTERMEDIO: In Place of Forgetting is a curated program for the 2018 FotoFocus Biennial: Open Archive. Now in its fourth iteration, the Biennial spans over 90 projects at museums, galleries, and universities across Greater Cincinnati; Northern Kentucky; Dayton and Columbus, Ohio; and features more than 400 artists, curators, and educators. The Open Archive theme emphasizes the centrality of photography and lens-based art to modernism, and examines our fundamental need to preserve photographs and to tell stories through their collection, organization, and interpretation.

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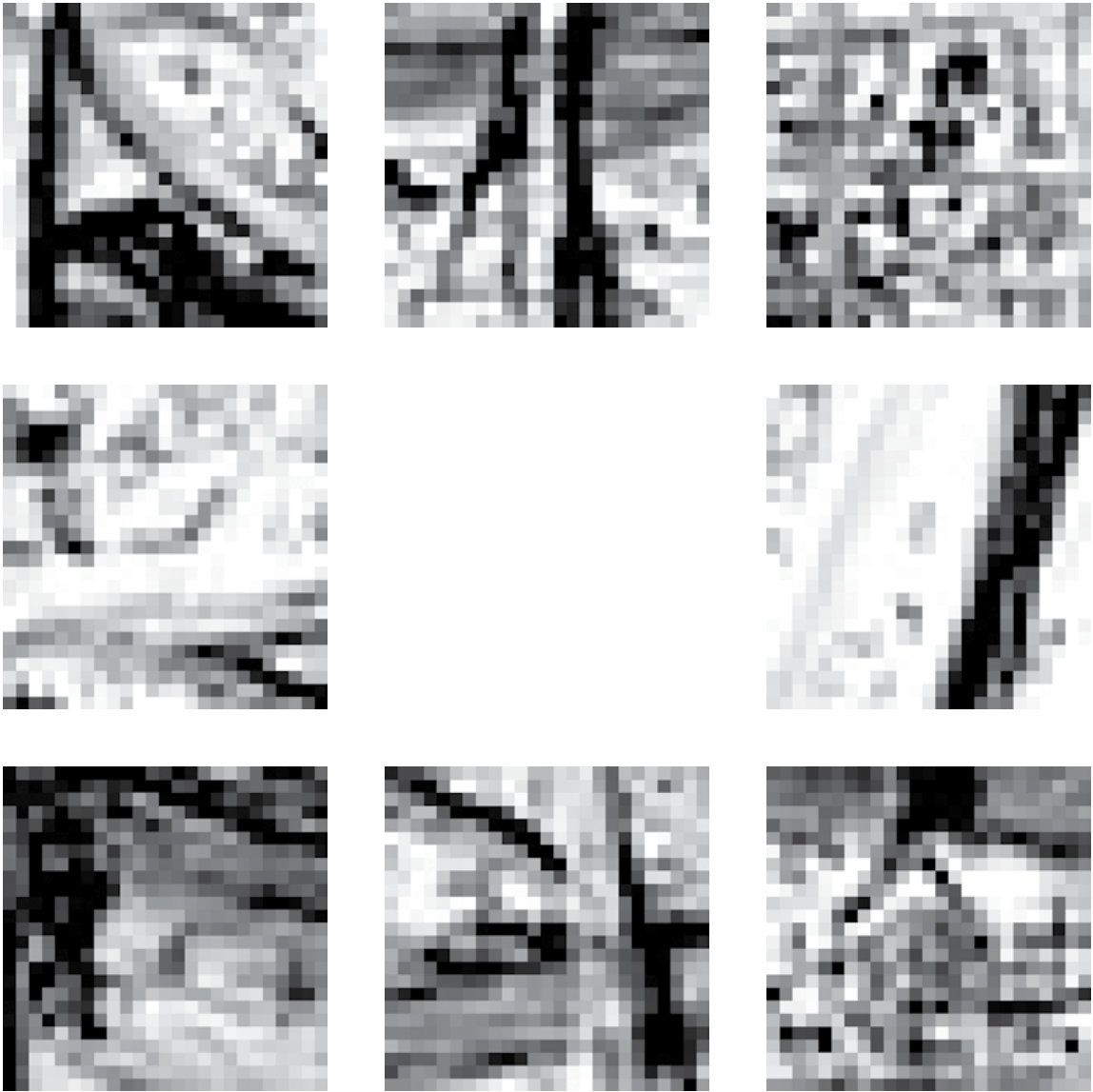
**400 + ARTISTS
31 + DAYS
ART + EVENTS**

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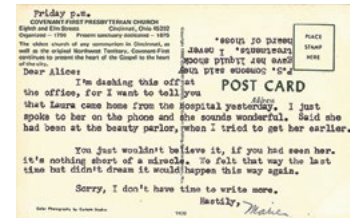
String Charts

Intermedio asked Mark Rohling, who has been collecting historic Cincinnati postcards for decades, to create a map of the Cincinnati basin through time from memory. The marks on his map, illustrated on the cover, were distilled into pixels from which 25 x 25 pixel squares were extracted. Each square “string chart” was then extruded and mapped onto a set of strings. These three dimensional assemblages of the imaginary topography envelop voices of the original postcards emanating from the voice box suspended inside.



Selections from the Postcard archive of Mark Rohling

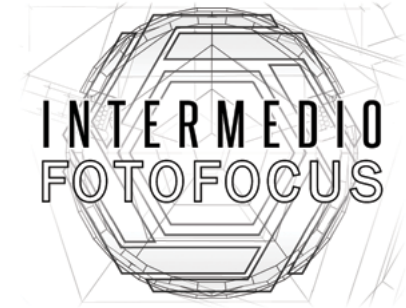
Images and messages from the following postcards serve as material for *In Place of Forgetting* and *Mid-Day Ghost*. Over 1500+ images and 400+ written messages were scanned and transcribed during the creation of the piece. This represents only a selection of Rohling's sprawling archive of historical postcards of Cincinnati.





Mid-Day Ghost

Intermedio also presents *Mid-Day Ghost*, a collaborative composition combining spoken word, stories, and experimental vocal sounds with interactive multichannel audio, performed by multi-instrumentalist/vocalist Jennifer Simone and saxophonist Om Srivastava. Through interactions with the installation *In Place of Forgetting*, *Mid-Day Ghost* explores the ephemerality of our contemporary experiences and how they are shaped by memories of the past—what we keep and what we leave behind.



INTERMEDIO

Eric Blyth
Sam Ferris-Morris
Justin West

Voices

Adriana Alvarez
Eric Blyth
Sophia Cunningham
David Corns
Nancy Paraskevopoulos
Jennifer Simone
Meredith Waddell
Justin West

Recordings for Mid-Day Ghost

Jennifer Simone
Om Srivastava

Fabrication and Postcard Transcription

Tyler Hamilton
Angela Livezey
Julia Warner

Archive

Mark Rohling

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