

FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus Breaks Attendance Records with FotoFocus Biennial 2018

Attendance More Than Tripled Since First Biennial in 2012



Thomas Ruff in *No Two Alike* at the Contemporary Arts Center (September 21, 2018 - January 13, 2019)

(Cincinnati, OH — March 14, 2019) — **FotoFocus**, the nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art, is pleased to announce that the **FotoFocus Biennial 2018** welcomed a **record-breaking 207,000 visitors** to its exhibitions and events across the Cincinnati region between fall 2018 and early 2019. The largest biennial of its kind in America, the FotoFocus Biennial has more than tripled its attendance since the inaugural edition in 2012.

The FotoFocus Biennial brought the region together and ignited a dialogue between contemporary lens-based art and the history of photography. Featuring exhibitions, talks, panel discussions, musical performances, and more, the focal point was the Biennial Program Week from **October 4-7, 2018**, while some exhibitions continued through February 2019. 2018 programming revolved around the theme of ***Open Archive***, which examined our need to preserve photographs and to tell stories through their collection, organization, and interpretation, gathering key figures in contemporary and historic lens-based art like **Thomas Ruff, Mamma Andersson, Akram Zaatari, Miranda July, Eugène Atget, and Berenice Abbott**.

The attendance figures have been collected from the **80** participating institutions, galleries, and universities in 2018, including the **Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Art Museum, Taft Museum**

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of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, The Dayton Art Institute, and Northern Kentucky University. The 2018 Biennial involved a record-breaking **464** participating artists, curators, educators, and speakers from across **six continents** and **47 countries**, from Estonia to El Salvador, and the Netherlands to Nepal.

“These growing figures prove Cincinnati’s appetite for photography and lens-based art. After four biennials and almost ten years as a nonprofit, word is spreading from generation to generation and people trust FotoFocus to deliver exceptional exhibitions and programming. We are committed to developing what the FotoFocus Biennial offers year after year,” says **Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus Executive Director**.

“This was the first time we invited guest curators to interpret our theme. It opened the Biennial up to new perspectives, new artists, and certainly increased awareness of all that we do,” says **Kevin Moore, FotoFocus Creative Director**.

FotoFocus Biennial Attendance Figures:

- 2012 - 60,000
- 2014 - 115,000
- 2016 - 150,000
- 2018 - 207,000

The fifth FotoFocus Biennial will take place in **October 2020**, with the Biennial Program Week from **October 1-4, 2020**.

In 2019, as part of the non-Biennial year, FotoFocus will welcome internationally acclaimed visual artist **William Wegman** to Cincinnati for the organization’s **Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**. His lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at the Cincinnati Art Museum on **Wednesday, April 17, 2019**. FotoFocus will then present the **2019 FotoFocus Symposium and Juried Exhibition** at **The Carnegie** on **October 4 & 5, 2019**. For more details, please visit www.fotofocuscincinnati.org.

ABOUT FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art through exhibitions and public programming. Since 2010, the organization has engaged art and educational institutions throughout the region to support and expand the cultural dialogue around the medium that has come to define our time.

With an emphasis on intellectually and academically rigorous programs, the organization provides uniquely enriching access to lens-based art, film, and practices inspired by photography. FotoFocus has collaborated with hundreds of organizations, curators, academics, and artists to present more than **600** exhibitions and programs, having contributed funding for the majority. The organization has brought hundreds of internationally-renowned photographers to the Greater Cincinnati region. Signature programming includes **FotoFocus Biennial**, the **FotoFocus Symposium**, and **FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**.

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