

**The Bowdoin College Museum of Art Presents Three Special Fall Exhibitions Focusing on  
Photography's Role in Imaging Daily Life in the Modern Era**

*Exhibitions Highlight Seminal Artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries Including  
Robert Frank, Adi Nes, Shirin Neshat, Dorothea Lange, and Richard Misrach,  
as well as Work by Amateur Portrait Photographers*

**Brunswick, Maine, September 21, 2016**—This fall, the Bowdoin College Museum of Art (BCMA) will present three special exhibitions that explore the role of photography in articulating identity politics on both a personal and global level. Ranging from a focused exhibition of works by canonical photographer and documentarian Robert Frank, to the group exhibition *Art and Resolution, 1900 to Today*, exploring how visual artists represent and address conflict through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to “*Where Do I Go from Here?*” *Snapshots of Twentieth Century Life*, a survey of amateur portrait photographs donated to the museum by American vernacular photography collector Peter Cohen, the Museum’s fall exhibitions demonstrate how photographers from a diverse array of backgrounds, periods, and perspectives have used the medium to negotiate identity and capture the world around them, from the monumental to the ordinary.

“From the mid-nineteenth-century to the present day, photography has played an important role in how both artists and citizens understand their identities as individuals and as members of a community,” notes BCMA Co-Director Anne Goodyear. “We are thrilled to present three exhibitions that explore different ways of understanding who we are and the world we live in through the lens of a camera,” continues Museum Co-Director Frank Goodyear. “Through collaborations with students and faculty to organize these exhibitions and the exceptional program of related events, our fall programming harnesses the creative and intellectual resources of the Bowdoin community to shed light on some of the pressing issues of our time.”

***Robert Frank: Sideways***

**September 15, 2016 to January 29, 2017**

*Robert Frank: Sideways* highlights the work of one of the most influential photographers of our era. While best known for his seminal series *The Americans* (1958), the exhibition at Bowdoin brings together a selection of nearly 50 rarely seen photographs from 1947, the year the artist first moved to the United States from Switzerland, to 1961, when he was featured in his first major museum exhibition. The exhibition explores the development and evolution of Frank’s characteristic style—including his use of low light, pioneering focal strategies, and unconventional cropping—which revolutionized contemporary photography and understanding of the photographer’s relationship with the larger world. Including photographs taken in Europe, South America, and the United States, the exhibition reveals an artist focused on capturing the broadest scope of the world’s moments, people, and sites—from a soldier at a funeral in South Carolina, to a museum exhibition in New York, to Richard Nixon in 1960.

The exhibition is curated by Bowdoin faculty members Michael Kolster, associate professor of art, and Russ Rymer, visiting writer-in-residence, with the assistance of students from spring 2016 seminars *Writing Creative Nonfiction Through Photography* and *Documentary Photography*.

***“Where Do I Go From Here?” Snapshots of Twentieth Century Life***

**November 3, 2016 to January 1, 2017**

*“Where Do I Go From Here?” Snapshots of Twentieth Century Life* showcases works from a recent major gift to the Museum’s collection donated by vernacular photography collector Peter Cohen. Selected by student curator Estefanía Chávez-Flores ’17, the exhibition brings together 150 photographs from the gift of approximately 300 works to explore how amateur photographs circumvented and, at times, unsettled assumptions about the definition of portraiture. Through likenesses of family, friends, and themselves, these practitioners experimented with their sense of identity through photography and liberated the medium from its studio past, introducing a new chapter in photographic history.

***Art and Resolution, 1900 to Today***

**November 15, 2016 to April 16, 2017**

*Art and Resolution, 1900 to Today* examines the dual meaning of resolution—as both ‘coming into view’ and ‘overcoming conflict’—through works that touch on the pressing social and political issues of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Bringing together approximately 150 highlights from the Museum’s permanent collection and many recent acquisitions, *Art and Resolution* includes works across media, with a focus on print and photography portfolios, which visualize resolution and its conceptual underpinnings and seek to act as agents of reconciliation through visual culture. Including photographs by artists such as Dorothea Lange, Richard Misrach, Robert Rauschenberg, Shirin Neshat, and Adi Nes, the exhibition presents artistic responses to a range of global issues including climate change, world wars, financial ruin, and the violation of human rights.

Curated by Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellow Ellen Tani, highlights of *Art and Resolution* include a breakout section of large-format color photographs by Israeli artist Adi Nes from the 2012 series *The Village*, as well as two photographs by Shirin Neshat. These portraits by Neshat, entitled *Ghada* and *Sayed* from her series *Our House Is on Fire*, were taken by Neshat after the Arab Spring and were given to the Museum in 2016 as part of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation’s initiative to engage university students in cross-cultural discussion on gender and national identity.

**Fall Programming Highlights**

The BCMA is mounting a robust series of public programs in coordination with the fall exhibitions, including lectures by leading artists and scholars, gallery conversations, and film screenings.

*Mike Kolster– Thursday Night Salon: “Robert Frank: Sideways”*

September 22, 2016 | 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. | Museum of Art, Rotunda

Mike Kolster and Russ Rymer discuss Robert Frank's work and the role that their students played in organizing the exhibition, *Robert Frank: Sideways*.

*The New Normal*

October 18, 2016 | 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. | Visual Arts Center, Kresge Auditorium

Artist Hasan Elahi discusses his practice and the larger question of visual documentation and the representation of identity in the post-9/11 era.

*Film screening and discussion: “The Films of Robert Frank”*

October 27, 2016 | 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. | Sills Hall, Smith Auditorium

An evening of short films by photographer Robert Frank, who is also a distinguished filmmaker.

*Spindel Lecture – Adi Nes: “Issues of Identity”*

November 15, 2016 | 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. | Visual Arts Center, Kresge Auditorium

Adi Nes, one of Israel's most prominent photographers, will discuss his personal artistic language, accompanied by images of his work. He will touch upon issues related to hidden layers in his photographs; the use of canonical icons and social ideas ascribed to them; staged photography, which creates reality as opposed to photography which usually reflects reality; and the various faces of Israeli identity.

*Gallery Conversation with Artist Adi Nes*

November 16, 2016 | 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. | Museum of Art, Pavilion

Israeli photographer Adi Nes discusses the art-historical references in his large-format color photographs from the 2012 series *The Village*.

*Gallery Conversation: “Art and Resolution: The Twentieth Century Comes Into View”*

December 6, 2016 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. | Museum of Art, Pavilion

A discussion of Shirin Neshat's 2013 portraits *Ghada* and *Sayed* in the context of the exhibition *Art and Resolution* at the Bowdoin College Museum

**About the Bowdoin College Museum of Art**

The collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art are among the most comprehensive of any college museum in the United States. Collecting commenced over 200 years ago with a major gift from the College's founder James Bowdoin III and his family that included Gilbert Stuart's magnificent portraits of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

The Museum is housed in the landmark Walker Art Building, designed in 1894 by Charles Follen McKim. Located on the historic quadrangle of Bowdoin College, the building is graced by murals by John La Farge, Kenyon Cox, Elihu Vedder, and Abbott Thayer. A \$20.8-million renovation and expansion in 2007 provided a stunning setting for objects as diverse as monumental Assyrian reliefs from Nimrud, Iraq; European old master paintings; and works by American modernists. The Museum is the centerpiece of Bowdoin's vibrant arts and culture community and offers a wealth of academic and educational programs. The Museum is also a prominent summer venue for major exhibitions such as *Edward Hopper's Maine* (2011); *William Wegman: Hello Nature* (2012); *Maurice Prendergast: By the Sea* (2013); *Richard Tuttle: A Print Retrospective* (2014); *Night Vision: Nocturnes in American Art, 1860 – 1960* (2015); and *This Is a Portrait If I Say So: Identity in American Art, 1912 to Today* (2016).

Fully accessible, the Bowdoin College Museum of Art is open to the public free of charge from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday; 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

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