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## FotoFocus 2012 preview set for October

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The ambitious FotoFocus 2012 will be Cincinnati's first biennial, month-long, region-wide celebration of photography.

There will be a three-hour preview of the event, slated for October 2012, including video works and still images from featured exhibitions beginning at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 during the Fountain Square Rocktober Series.

Significantly, it will provide an advance look at the fall 2012 visual arts season as Cincinnati Art Museum, Taft Museum of Art and Contemporary Arts Center as well as galleries and universities will all participate in the focus on photography.

Highlights will include the already announced "Star Power: Edward Steichen's Glamour Photography" exhibit at the Taft Museum, focused on the father of modern fashion photography in the 1920s and '30s. That will be juxtaposed by Cincinnati Art Museum's exhibition "Herb Ritts: L.A. Style," showcasing the leading fashion and celebrity photographer of the late 20th century.

The Contemporary Art Center will devote an exhibition to Andy Warhol's Polaroid portraits.

James Crump, chief curator, and, since 2008, the curator of photography at the Cincinnati Art Museum, co-chairs FotoFocus with Raphaela Platow, Alice and Harris Weston director and chief curator of the Contemporary Arts Center.

"Photography is the medium of our time," said Crump. "We all have phones in our pockets with cameras; a large part of the population engages with online digital content that's photo-derived. Given this democratization of technology, and photography's ubiquity, it has become the most accessible medium, the perfect bridge to bring people and art together."

Crump will organize "Gravity of Light," an immersive, experiential installation by Doug and Mike Starn in Holy Cross-Immaculata Church in Mount Adams. The Starns enjoyed recent success with their "Big Bambú" installation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the 2011 Venice Biennale.

Participating venues in 2012 include: Cincinnati Art Museum, Contemporary Arts Center, Taft Museum of Art, Northern Kentucky University, Ohio University's Kennedy Museum, University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Weston Art Gallery, Carnegie Arts Center, Mercantile Library, Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati, Art Academy of Cincinnati, as well as 21c Museum Hotel, Country Club, Carl Solway Gallery, Prairie, Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center and more.

FotoFocus 2012 will feature emerging talents and students in "pop-up" exhibitions at alternative spaces, community art centers and other grass-roots organizations.

Following its Oct. 14 debut, the video preview will be available for download on the FotoFocus website: [fotofocuscincinnati.org](http://fotofocuscincinnati.org).

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