

MOPLA

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The Lucie Foundation and the MONTH of PHOTOGRAPHY LA (MOPLA)
present
6 PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS – opening 6-9PM, Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Pacific Design Center Blue Building
8687 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, LA 90069

March 18, 2009 (Los Angeles, CA) - The inaugural Month of Photography Los Angeles (MOPLA) and the Lucie Foundation are proud to present 5 photography exhibitions that will all debut at the Pacific Design Center with opening receptions at 6-9PM, Tuesday, April 7 2009. These receptions are open to the public. Both emerging and established photographers will be seen in a variety of spaces at the Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Avenue at the corner of San Vicente Blvd in West Hollywood. These unique exhibitions will be open to the public for the evening. As an inclusive event, MOPLA aims to inspire and engage the professional, enthusiast, emerging artist and collector, both young and seasoned. This effort will organize and galvanize the already thriving photography and art community in LA.

The visually stimulating celebration of these artists and their work will be on display that evening and during the month of April.

Tim Mantoani, *Behind Photographs* (April 7, Pacific Design Center, 6-9PM)

Shooting 20x24 Polaroids of famous photographers as they hold their most iconic pictures, this interesting layered concept both juxtaposes and celebrates the creation and its creator. It is a rare chance for the viewer to be influenced by the original photograph, the interpretation of the artist himself as well as the combination of these elements forming the final photography itself. These

photographs tell a story completely unique in its multifaceted layers and is a visual and mental pleasure for its appreciators. **Tim Mantoani** photographed over 150 individuals and MOPLA will be showcasing a specific sampling of this tremendous project. Our version of the Behind Photographs will feature master shooters such as **Julius Shulman, David Hume Kennerly, Douglas Kirkland** and many others based in Los Angeles. Tim will attend the reception.

Photo District News, *Emerging 30 Show* (April 7, Pacific Design Center, 6-9PM)

Photo District News published their annual March issue that features the tenth class of 30 new and emerging photographers. **PDN** states their three goals for 'PDN's 2009: 30' is, "To provide emerging artists with a sorely needed venue to exhibit their images, to create a reliable resource for the photo community to seek out these talents, and to engage other aspiring photographers in thinking about what it takes to succeed in this profession." This exhibition will showcase the work of these 30 up-and-coming photographers and will help to achieve and progress **PDN's** mission in supporting this fresh and exciting talent like Justin Maxon – winner of the Lucie Awards' IPA Deeper Perspective of the Year 2008, snow boarding photographer Cole Barash, New Delhi based Adam Ferguson, Macau born Brooklyn based Flora Hanitijo, World Press Award winner Jeff Hutchens, IPA award winner Lucas Zarebinski, and the rest of the emerging 30 for 2009. **This exhibition is sponsored by Kodak and A and I Photographic and Digital Services.**

B+, *GHOST NOTES* (April 7, Pacific Design Center, 6-9PM)

GHOST NOTES, according to photographer B+, "is a "photo-album" that both documents and critiques music in its relation to the world. He continues, "Vinyl culture at the beginning of the new millennium is peculiarly positioned between being completely obsolete and forming the template for "the most important North American music since be-bop ----hip hop." Hip-hop music is the meta-history of recorded music turned on its head and his images reflect that movement.

Seeing the rare and lost 45's as a living museum of our music, B+ finds that looking through these images can be a similar experience to listening to the echoes in between the beats of music. *GHOST NOTES* relies, in its basic construction, on ten years of consistent beat digging. It is littered with narratives within and around the subject. As opposed to ten years of photographs of hip hop, this is ten years of hip-hop photography. B+ plans to attend this evening.

Mark Edward Harris, *The AXIS OF EVIL (Inside North Korea, Inside Iran)* (April 7, Pacific Design Center, 6-9PM)

Mark Edward Harris, whose photo essays, "are driven by a fascination with history and international politics", create a visual portal into the culture and landscape of specifically, Iran and North Korea. Harris says, "I consider myself a student of history and incredibly fortunate to get up

close and personal to the places that are in the news today and the history books tomorrow.” This exhibit will honor and expose the honest and exquisite nature of these places and people we rarely have the chance to see in this light. Mark plans to be in attendance.

John Delaney, *GOLDEN EAGLE HUNTERS of MONGOLIA* (April 7, Pacific Design Center, 6-9PM)

After spending over 15 years as Master Printer working closely with such eminent photographers such as Bruce Davidson, Richard Avedon, Patrick Demarchelier, Steven Klein, Annie Leibovitz and Irving Penn, John Delaney’s series “The Golden Eagle Hunters of Mongolia” has garnered him the prestigious International Photography Awards 2008 Discovery of the Year. This show follows his successful exhibit at the Farmani Gallery in NYC. Nobody knows exactly when man tamed the Golden Eagle of Central Asia. Genghis Khan is said to have had over 5,000 “eagle riders” in his personal guard. We do know that since the 15th Century, nomadic Kazakh tribes on horseback with Golden Eagles have roamed freely across the borders of what is today Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Western Mongolia. History has also shown these legendary horsemen have long had their way of life threatened: the Bolshevik Revolution, Stalin’s purges and China’s Cultural Revolution drove roaming Kazakhs to the mountains and valleys of Mongolia, where they found refuge and freedom to live as they have for centuries. But at the dawn of the 21st Century, the nomadic way of life is once again in danger of being eradicated. Globalization and the encroachment of the West is irreversibly changing the eagle riders’ way of life. Delaney’s ongoing project is documenting these remarkable people before their traditions are lost forever. Delaney states, “With classic large format B&W portraits, I’ve tried to capture their pride and nobility. In the mountains, on horseback, I shot medium format B&W and color film to document the hunt and the vast beauty of Mongolia. The nomads warmly welcomed me and to then I am grateful. I am also honored to have observed their way of life in such an intimate and personal manner and hope my images do their traditions justice.”

Jim McHugh, *Remarkable: Places + Faces* (April 7, Pacific Design Center, 6-9PM)

Known for his recent Polaroid images of Los Angeles, Jim McHugh has been photographing common things in an uncommon manner for over thirty years. This collection of his work spans Europe, Asia as well as America and reflects the varied and changing threads of the photographer's ever altering life. This year his "Las Palmas Hotel- Hollywood" was acquired by the George Eastman House for their permanent collection in Rochester, N.Y.

About the Month of Photography Los Angeles (MOPLA)

MOPLA's two-fold mission is to advance dynamic programming designed to engage and stimulate the photography community, as well as to present a comprehensive resource of exhibitions and events in April 2009. MOPLA is organized by the LUCIE FOUNDATION, a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the celebration of photography. www.monthofphotography.com

About the Lucie Foundation

The Lucie Foundation’s three fold mission is to honor master photographers, discover and cultivate emerging talent and to celebrate the appreciation of photography worldwide. The photography communities from countries around the globe pay tribute to the year’s

most outstanding photographic achievements at the annual Lucie Awards ceremony. The Lucies recognize men and women whose life's work in photography merits the highest acclaim by their peers. The winners of IPA Photographer of the Year, the Discovery of the Year and Deeper Perspective Photographer of the Year are announced at the Lucies and are awarded cash prizes and statues. The Lucie Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable foundation. www.luciefoundation.org