

www.nelson-atkins.org

816.561.4000 Telephone
816.561.4011 Facsimile

The
Nelson-Atkins
Museum
of Art

4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition Highlights Global Diversity of Contemporary Photographic Portraiture

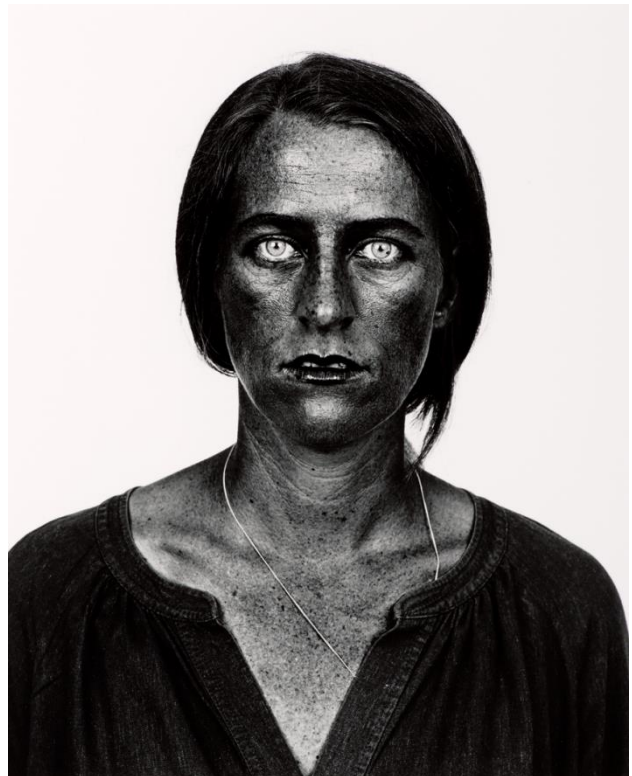
About Face: Contemporary Portraiture Explores Issues of Identity and Individuality

Kansas City, MO. July 8, 2013 – A fascinating study of contemporary photographic portraiture will be on view at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City Aug. 9 through Jan. 9, 2014. *About Face: Contemporary Portraiture* highlights the breadth and global diversity of portraits produced since 2000. This exhibition includes 36 works by 29 artists from around the globe: the United States, England, Canada, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, Iran and South Africa.

“Most of these works were acquired for our permanent collection in the last three years, which is very exciting,” said Julián Zugazagoitia, CEO and Director of the Nelson-Atkins. “They add depth and breadth to our already outstanding photography collection.”

About Face offers a provocative and engaging forum for considering the question: how do we define portraiture today?

“Contemporary photographers approach portraiture from multiple perspectives, and this show reflects that diversity,” said April M. Watson, who co-curated this exhibition with Jane L. Aspinwall (both are Associate Curators of Photography). “Some portraits emphasize the construction of identity through race, gender and class, while others question the relationship between individuality and typology, or the impact of the media on self-presentation. At the core is





the relationship between the photographer and his or her subject, and how that interaction translates in the final portrait.” Adds Aspinwall: “Some of these photographers use antiquated processes such as the daguerreotype and tintype to make portraits of contemporary subjects. These historical resonances add an interesting dimension to the show.”

Artists featured in *About Face* include: **Gohar Dashti**, Deanna Dikeman, Gloria Baker Feinstein, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Ben Gest, Jim Goldberg, Myra Greene, Rachel Herman, Philip Heying, Pieter Hugo, Ken Kitano, Richard Learoyd, Jocelyn Lee, Andrea Modica, Laura McPhee, Michael Robinson, Lise Sarfati, Tomoko Sawada, Anna Shteyushleyger, Lauren Simonutti, Sage Sohler, Alec Soth, Jerry Spagnoli, Joni Sternbach, Hank Willis Thomas, Dylan Vitone, Charlie

White, Vanessa Winship and Michael Wolf.

Making Pictures of People – Museum presents digital exhibition of portraiture online

While *About Face* is on view in its galleries, the Nelson-Atkins will also offer visitors an opportunity to engage with a digital exhibition of recent portraiture, *Making Pictures of People*, curated by **FlakPhoto.com** creator Andy Adams. This online presentation will include a robust selection of works from 27 photographers sourced from the web-based photo/arts community. Visitors will be able to access the FlakPhoto exhibition, which will also be publicly accessible to audiences worldwide, via touch screens in the gallery and on mobile devices outside the museum.

Making Pictures of People features works from Keliy Anderson-Staley, Yolanda del Amo, Christopher Churchill, Paul D'Amato, Jess T. Dugan, Doug DuBois, Matt Eich, Jason Florio, Jessica Todd Harper, Dave Jordano, Dina Kantor, Stacy Kranitz, Molly Landreth, Graham Miller, Jim Mortram, Lydia Panas, Laura Pannack, Deborah Parkin, Cara Phillips, Richard Renaldi, Simon Roberts, Marjorie Salvaterra, Betsy Schneider, Tema Stauffer, Shen Wei, Carrie Will and Susan Worsham.

Adams, Watson and Aspinwall see this collaboration as a way to broaden the dialogue about how curators, image-makers and audiences engage with contemporary photographic practice.

“Of course, there are differences in the way you curate and look at photography in a museum versus on the Web,” says Adams. “Both platforms provide unique opportunities for presenting work and engaging audiences, and we see them as complementary experiences. We hope this collaboration between the Nelson-Atkins and FlakPhoto makes that point and encourages people to think deeply about contemporary portraiture as well as the rapidly evolving photographic medium.”

*Image captions: Pieter Hugo, South African (b. 1976). Annebelle Schreuders (1), 2012. Inkjet print. Gift of the Hall Family Foundation, 178.2012.1.
Jocelyn Lee, American (b. Italy, 1962). Untitled (Julia and Greenery), 2005. Chromogenic print. Gift of the Hall Family Foundation, 2011.12.48.*

Exhibition credit line: This exhibition is supported by the Hall Family Foundation and the Campbell-Calvin Fund and Elizabeth C. Bonner Charitable Trust for exhibitions.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

The Nelson-Atkins in Kansas City is recognized nationally and internationally as one of America's finest art museums. The Nelson-Atkins serves the community by providing access and insight into its renowned collection of more than 33,500 art objects and is best known for its Asian art, European and American paintings, photography, modern sculpture, and new American Indian and Egyptian galleries. Housing a major art research library and the Ford Learning Center, the Museum is a key educational resource for the region. The institution-wide transformation of the Nelson-Atkins has included the 165,000-square-foot Bloch Building expansion and renovation of the original 1933 Nelson-Atkins Building.

The Nelson-Atkins is located at 45th and Oak Streets, Kansas City, MO. Hours are Wednesday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday/Friday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon–5 p.m. Admission to the museum is free to everyone. For museum information, phone 816.751.1ART (1278) or visit nelson-atkins.org.

For media interested in receiving further information, please contact:

Kathleen Leighton, Communications and Media Relations Officer
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
816.751.1321
kleighton@nelson-atkins.org