

For Immediate Release

**FotoFocus Presents
Lecture and Visiting Artist Series, Spring 2016
Featuring Photographer Jo Ann Callis
at the Cincinnati Art Museum**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 7:00pm
Cincinnati Art Museum
953 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio**



Jo Ann Callis, *Untitled (Hand and Honey)* from *Early Color Portfolio*, circa 1976
Archival pigment print, 16 x 20 inches
Courtesy of the artist and ROSEGALLERY

Cincinnati, OH– January 12, 2016– FotoFocus is pleased to present the Spring 2016 Lecture and Visiting Artist Series with acclaimed contemporary photographer **Jo Ann Callis** at the **Cincinnati Art Museum** on **Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00pm**. An early pioneer of the Fabricated Photography movement, Jo Ann Callis is known for her unsettling, dreamlike images that portray domestic scenes and interiors staged in extensively constructed sets. For the past 40 years, she has used an expert eye for color and lighting to create renowned photographs that capture the inherent anxieties of domesticity and utilize composition to illustrate opposing sets of emotions in a single frame.

The artist will speak in conversation with **Rose Shoshana**, Director of ROSEGALLERY in Santa Monica, Los Angeles, on the nature of her inspiration and process in a survey of her career to date. The talk is free and open to the public with a reception to follow in the Art Museum's Great Hall. In addition to the evening lecture, FotoFocus will host Callis at the University of Cincinnati for conversations with students from local colleges and universities.

“FotoFocus aims to further current discourse around photography. As part of our programming, we are proud to present the work of leading artists like Jo Ann Callis, who have played important roles in the evolution of contemporary photography,” said **FotoFocus Executive Director Mary Ellen Goeke**. “We are excited to welcome Jo Ann Callis back to her hometown of Cincinnati to celebrate and share her inventive and thought-provoking work with our audiences.”

FOTOFOCUS

Since its inception in 1996, the Lecture and Visiting Artists Series has brought more than 35 artists to Cincinnati, including Doug Aitken, Gregory Crewdson, Thomas Demand, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, Laurie Simmons, and Roe Ethridge. Alongside the Lecture and Visiting Artist Series, FotoFocus will continue supporting photography exhibitions and events throughout the greater Cincinnati region while planning the next edition of the FotoFocus Biennial 2016 in October, titled *Photography, the Undocument*.

About Jo Ann Callis

Jo Ann Callis (b. 1940) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and relocated to Los Angeles in 1961. She enrolled at UCLA in 1970 where, as a student of Robert Heinecken, she was inspired to take up color photography after seeing the work of Paul Outerbridge. She rose to prominence in the late 1970s for her avant-garde style of fabricating photographs. Jo Ann Callis's work has been exhibited extensively around the world, including at the Whitney Biennial and the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the University Art Museum in Berkeley; the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Santa Monica Museum of Art; the Min Gallery in Japan; the Craig Krull Gallery in Los Angeles; and ROSEGALLERY in Santa Monica. In 2009, *Woman Twirling*, a retrospective of her work, was on display at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Her work is in a number of permanent collections and has been published in *The New Color Photography* and *Picture*, as well as the *Anti Olympics, Summer 1985* and *Objects of Reverie* catalogues. Callis has received three NEA Fellowships and a Guggenheim Fellowship among other awards.

In conjunction with her latest exhibition of never-before-seen early black & white and color images at ROSEGALLERY in June 2014, Aperture released *Jo Ann Callis: Other Rooms*, the first publication to comprehensively feature the artist's mid-1970s investigations of the nude body and sexuality. The critically acclaimed book features Callis' photographs of the human form from her 1976-77 provisionally titled series *Early Color*, as well as a selection of black-and-white photographs from the same period.

About FotoFocus

FotoFocus is a non-profit arts organization whose mission is to present the finest in contemporary photography and lens-based art that is artistically, intellectually, and academically rigorous and support programs that are accessible, educational, and enriching to a diverse audience. FotoFocus celebrates and champions photography as the medium of our time and aims to inspire conversations about the world through the art of photography.

Launched in October 2012 and continued in October 2014, the FotoFocus Biennial is a month-long regional photography festival based in Cincinnati. The second edition of the Biennial included five days of photography lectures, panel discussions, screenings, and performances. In addition to the six exhibitions curated by Artistic Director Kevin Moore, FotoFocus provided funding to 33 non-profit organizations and featured over 50 participating spaces throughout the region.

FotoFocus Biennial 2016: *Photography, the Undocument*, Oct. 1-31, 2016

The Undocument questions the documentary character of photography, exploring the boundaries between facts and fabrications. The FotoFocus Biennial 2016 will run through the month of October in Cincinnati at participating museums, galleries and organizations. The FotoFocus

FOTOFOCUS

Biennial will include four days of concentrated programming and events to be held October 6–9, 2016.

Further information about FotoFocus can be found at www.fotofocuscincinnati.org

Follow FotoFocus on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) via the hashtag [#FotoFocus](#)

###

Media Contact

For further information, images, or to arrange an interview, members of the press may contact:

Kristin Sancken or Pamela Hernandez

Blue Medium, Inc.

+1 212-675-1800

kristin@bluemedium.com | pamela@bluemedium.com