

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Art of Photography Show Opening Reception**  
**Acclaimed International Exhibition Opens September 29, 2012 at the**  
**San Diego Art Institute "Museum of the Living Artist" in Balboa Park.**

**San Diego, Calif. (September 19, 2012)** The eighth annual Art of Photography Show, an international competition and exhibition of photographic art, will debut the top 200 photographs on September 29, 2012 with the Opening Reception Gala and Awards Ceremony at the San Diego Art Institute "Museum of the Living Artist," located in San Diego's beautiful Balboa Park. This public reception will take place from 6:00 to 10:00 pm and is expected to attract over 1,500 people, including artists and collectors from around the world.

The finalists were judged and selected from almost 17,000 entries from 77 countries by Julian Cox, Founding Curator of Photography and Chief Curator at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The fact that the Art of Photography Show is judged by a major museum curator each year is what differentiates this project from other competitions. Photographers rarely have the opportunity to reach these respected and influential people, which is why the show receives so many entries from world-renowned photographers.

The **Art of Photography Show** is an established and critical force in the world of contemporary photography. The show provides tangible **benefits to artists** trying to break into the public eye. The competition's producers continue to outdo themselves. This well thought out **international exhibition** provides value to artists at every turn, from first-rate viewing in the judging process to exhibition and publication opportunities, photo industry connections, and even monetary awards.

Producer of the Art of Photography Show, Steven Churchill, is dedicated to providing exposure to emerging and established artists, and has done so with great effect; last year's viewing audience exceeded **30,000 people**.

For photographers, the distinguishing feature of this competition is its **notable judges**. Each year the Art of Photography Show invites a curator from a major museum to jury the show. This year's judge, Julian Cox, brings a very qualified eye to the jury process. Art connoisseurs recognize this is an unequalled opportunity to view such compelling photographs chosen by a world class curator.

**Exposure** is critical to all artists. Selected works will be on exhibit for a full six weeks in the San Diego Art Institute "Museum of the Living Artist" in Balboa Park. On September 29th the exhibition's elite attendees will include art collectors, curators, designers, architects, executives, civic and government leaders, not to mention the stars of the show – the artists. The selected artists journey from around the world to attend the gala reception, take in the show, engage the viewing public, and share creative inspiration with fellow photographers. Though the music and refreshments of the evening are delightful, most tantalizing is the opportunity to own the works on display. Another benefit to the artists is the chance to connect with San Diego's movers and shakers and perhaps catch the eye of yet another curator in attendance.

A crucial and well-appreciated aspect of the competition is the monetary awards. A total of **\$10,000.00 in award grants** will be provided to the Art of Photography Show's top-rung artists. During the Opening Reception, Mr. Cox and the show's Producer, Steven Churchill, will announce the award winning images and give away \$10,000 in cash prizes. The awarded artists can put these funds to use without restriction.

To learn more, visit: [www.artofphotographyshow.com](http://www.artofphotographyshow.com)

Check out an informational PDF about the Art of Photography Show by clicking [here](#).

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**The Art of Photography Show 2012 Judge:**

**Julian Cox**

*Founding Curator of Photography and Chief Curator at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA*



**Julian Cox** joined the [Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco](#) in September 2010 as its Founding Curator of Photography and Chief Curator at the de Young Museum. He was educated in Great Britain and holds a BA in Art History from the University of Manchester and an M.Phil in the History of Photography from the University College of Wales. After holding curatorial positions at the National Library of Wales and the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Bradford, England, he moved to the United States in 1992 to pursue his career here. For more than decade he worked with the photographs collection at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, and then spent five years leading the photography program at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Cox has organized numerous exhibitions on subjects ranging from the dawn of photography's invention in Europe in the 19th century, to contemporary practice in the United States. He has been a reviewer for the Atlanta Photography Group; Atlanta Celebrates Photography; Palm Springs Photo Festival and Photo NOLA.

Cox is the co-author, with Colin Ford, of the critically acclaimed publication *Julia Margaret Cameron: The Complete Photographs* (2003), the first catalogue raisonné produced of the work of a photographer. He is the author of many scholarly articles and several books. His recent publications include *The Portrait Unbound: Photographs by Robert Weingarten* (2010), *Road to Freedom: Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement, 1956-1968* (2008), and *Harry Callahan: Eleanor* (2007).

**The esteemed judges to date:**

- Anne Lyden, Associate Curator of Photography at the J. Paul Getty Museum
- Natasha Egan, Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago
- Charlotte Cotton, Director of Photography at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Hugh Davies, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Carol McCusker, Curator of Photography at the Museum of Photographic Arts
- Neal Benezra, Director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- Tim Wride, Director of Photography at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Arthur Ollman, Director of The Museum of Photographic Arts

Note: All titles are as of the time of judging.

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