



NEWS RELEASE

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John Divola

A RILEY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS PROJECT GALLERY EXHIBITION

Now through May 6 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – Born in California in 1949, John Divola has disrupted traditional expectations about photography for the past forty years. Featuring six works from his 2008 series, *Dark Star*, this compact installation touches on the central themes of the artist's practice, capturing Divola's interventions – in this case, discs he spray painted on the walls of abandoned homes outside of Los Angeles – in a series of haunting images. At once blatantly straightforward and disarmingly mysterious, the title *Dark Star* suggests an overpowering astronomical mass; a theoretical star whose gravitational force is so strong it traps the light it emits. By assigning these images sequential letters rather than titles (A, B, C . . .), Divola further implies the sense of anonymous, distant suns, perhaps one of thousands catalogued by scientists at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, near his home in Southern California. Their shifting scale and position within each room amplify the curious sense of

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John Divola at Joslyn Art Museum

space, some constrained by closets, others expanding across empty walls, each "sun" differing in size and its distance from the camera. *Dark Star F*, with a small red "planet" seemingly locked into orbit, becomes a schematic solar system. For all of their mystery and foreboding, however, these photographs ultimately become meditative, the minimalist simplicity of Divola's forms giving way to subtle variations of light and surface.

On view at Joslyn February 3 through May 6, *John Divola* is included in free general Museum admission. Riley Contemporary Artists Projects Gallery exhibitions are supported in part by Terry & Catherine Ferguson, Sara Foxley, and Polina & Bob Schlott.

About the Artist

Born in 1949, John Divola has spent his life in Los Angeles. He received a BA from California State University, Northridge in 1971 and a MA and MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1973 and 1974, respectively. Since 1988, Divola has been a professor of art at the University of California, Riverside. His work has been featured in more than seventy solo exhibitions in the United States, Europe, Japan, Mexico, and Australia and over 200 group exhibitions. He received Individual Artist Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1973, 1976, 1979, and 1990 and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 1986. The subject of a dozen monographs, Divola's work is represented in more than 30 public collections.

About Joslyn's Riley CAP Gallery

A 500-square-foot space in the Scott Pavilion suite of galleries, the Riley CAP Gallery showcases nationally- and internationally-recognized artists, as well as emerging talent, selected by Joslyn curators. A rotating schedule of carefully focused exhibitions will examine how artists engage with the world and respond to the issues that challenge them creatively, bringing new perspectives on contemporary art to Nebraska. Riley CAP Gallery artists will be invited to Joslyn for lectures and other public programs, giving audiences the opportunity to gain insight into creative processes and contribute to an expanded dialogue about new art. The first Joslyn gallery dedicated exclusively to living artists, the Riley CAP Gallery represents an important step in making contemporary art an even more integral component of the Museum's exhibition programming.

PICTURED: (PAGE 1) John Divola (American, b. 1949), *Dark Star F*, 2008, archival pigment print on rag paper, 40 x 50 in., © John Divola. Courtesy Gallery Luisotti, Los Angeles

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JOSLYN
Art Museum

Our Mission — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The

Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

General Museum Admission: Free (the *John Divola* exhibition is included in free general Museum admission).

Regular Museum Hours (includes exhibition): Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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