On view at Joslyn Art Museum February 8–May 10

(Omaha, NE) – Photography met the twenty-first century in a precarious position—more ubiquitous than at any point in its history, yet also less believable. Every phone is now a camera, and it is estimated that over one trillion images were made in 2018. Yet most of these are understood to be disposable, and when people view images online or in print, more often than not they are presumed to have been manipulated or altered in some fashion. Photography’s veil of believability has been lifted and “clicking the shutter” has never meant less. That said, it is precisely the power that photography once held—the assumption of fact—that has allowed its truths to become so slippery. Where does this leave images that are meant to be more than transitory or ephemeral—pictures intended to convey insight and careful observation? The majority of photographs in this exhibition carry the appearance of transparency and immediacy—of the depiction of a scene that appeared before the lens at an exact moment—but remind us that things are not always what they seem.

Employing a variety of media, from photograms created without a negative to images exposed on film and printed in the darkroom to compositions constructed entirely by computer, the artists in this exhibition subvert our assumptions about their subjects and the manner in which images are created. Photographs made in a single exposure stand side by side with those constructed from hundreds of digital captures, both seeming to present a seamless reflection of reality. While some photographers still rely on traditional notions of the sublime, others recognize the landscape as arena where history, politics, conflict, and climate change are laid bare. Similarly, artists are employing portraiture in new ways to
explore notions of public and private identities. Some have explored the societal norms and expectations that shape our lives, while others seek to reclaim their identity, reshaping how the world sees them and how they choose to face the world. The properties of the photographic medium itself are likewise challenged in elegant cameraless images that reflect the physical world through the direct, hands-on manipulation of the print itself.

Featured photographers include Tina Barney, Julie Blackmon, Joachim Brohm, James Casebere, Thomas Joshua Cooper, Christopher Dawson, John Divola, Lalla Essaydi, Owen Gump, Dan Holdsworth, Ron Jude, Richard Misrach, Richard Mosse, Simon Norfolk, Hanno Otten, Trevor Paglen, Susan Rankaitis, Meghann Rieppelhoff, Thomas Ruff, Mark Ruwedel, Larry Sultan, David Taylor and Marcos Ramirez ERRE, Mickalene Thomas, and Carrie Mae Weems. Together, they represent an international array of established and emerging artists, some of whom are debuting new work in this exhibition. Exploring still life, portraiture, and landscape, they cleverly upend our expectations in ways subtle and overt to challenge how we understand photography’s new role in describing the shifting world around us.

*Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography* is organized by Joslyn Art Museum.

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**Exhibition Tickets and Tours**

*Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography* is a ticketed exhibition: $10 for general public adults; $5 for college students with ID (tickets for those with a UNMC student ID are free); free for members and youth ages 17 and younger. Special Thursday pricing (4–8 pm): $5 for general public adults. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition. Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults. Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered weekly (ticket pricing applies; view the calendar of events at www.joslyn.org for tour offerings).

**Exhibition Mobile Tour**

Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests may use their own mobile device or borrow one of Joslyn’s to access the dual language *Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography* mobile tour. Dial (402) 881-3601 for English or (402) 972-4031 for Spanish; or visit www.joslyn.org > Education > Multimedia; or scan the QR code at the entrance to the exhibition; or read the audio script, available for hearing impaired visitors (access it through the web app). Presented by Joslyn and OnCell with special thanks to 91.5 KIOS FM.

**Exhibition Programs & Events**

**Thursday, February 6 @ 5:30 pm**

**Patron Preview**

On Thursday, February 6, Joslyn’s Patron-level members are invited for a first look at the exhibition. The evening will include a private reception and curatorial tour of the show. Joslyn Patron members receive invitations.
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Joslyn Art Museum Presents Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography

Saturday, February 8 @ 5:30 pm
Members Opening and Reception
On Saturday evening, February 8, members are invited to a private talk and reception celebrating Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography. At 6 pm in the Witherspoon Concert Hall, members will enjoy a talk by Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art. Curator of the Fact and Fiction exhibition, Jurovics will speak about photography in the twenty-first century. Following the talk, members will enjoy exhibition viewing and light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The Hitchcock Museum Shop and ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity will both be open during this event. Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org.

Monday, February 10; noon–3 pm
Members Day
On Monday, February 10, the Museum opens Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography exclusively for Joslyn members. From noon to 3 pm, members show their membership card at the desk for tickets to the exhibition. Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, will conduct exhibition tours at 12:30 pm and 2 pm (first come, first served; limited capacity for talks; participants will be asked to sign up upon arrival on February 10 as no reservations will be taken ahead of time for tours). Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org.

Thursday, February 27 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar opens @ 5 pm)
Framing the Frame: Art That Ignites
In partnership with the Nebraska Writers Collective (NWC), Joslyn welcomes Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason, Ryan Boyland, Gina Keplinger, Fernando Montejano, and Traci Schacht—members of NWC who will each present a unique piece of poetry or prose in response to works of art in the exhibition. Framing the Frame is a 60-minute gallery walk through designed to shed light on the ekphrastic experience and art's ability to inspire and engage other artists.

Free with Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography exhibition admission (special $5 tickets for general public adults on Thursdays; additional ticket details on page 2). Advanced registration encouraged at www.joslyn.org; walk-ins admitted only as space permits.

Saturday & Sunday, February 29 & March 1
Free College Weekend
During regular public hours (10 am to 4 pm) on Saturday and Sunday, February 29 and March 1, anyone with a valid college ID will receive free tickets to Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography. Regular ticket price for college students is $5 (tickets for those with a UNMC student ID are always free).

Thursdays, March 12 & April 30 @ 6:30 pm & 7:15 pm each evening (cash bar opens @ 5 pm)
Curator Talks
Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, offers a closer look at the exhibition. Free with Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography exhibition admission (special $5 tickets for general public adults on Thursdays; additional ticket details on page 2). Advanced registration encouraged at www.joslyn.org (select tour date and time); walk-ins admitted only as space permits.

Thursday, April 16 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar opens @ 5 pm)
Artist Discussion: Finding the Landscape in the Twenty–First Century
Held in the Abbott Lecture Hall, this talk is free and open to the public. Those wishing to view Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography must obtain a ticket (special Thursday evening price of $5 for general public adults; details on page 2).

Ron Jude and Owen Gump, featured Fact and Fiction artists, will discuss the place of landscape photography in the twenty-first century with Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator and Holland Curator of American Art. When the
traditional solace offered by a romantic horizon is undone on a daily basis by ever more dire reports of ecologic crisis, what role can photography play in helping understand the world around us and meet the challenges of the coming century?

Ron Jude was born in Los Angeles in 1965 but was raised in rural Idaho. If geographical happenstance influences or even determines sensibility, then this American duality, between the urban and the rural, between the land of images and the landscape of a mythic individualism, permeates Ron Jude’s imagery.

Owen Gump is a visual artist working with photography and related media. His work examines the relationship between the built environment and nature, particularly in the western U.S. He received his BA in Urban Studies from the University of Washington, Seattle, and studied photography at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig, Germany.

This is an official Nebraska Science Festival event. For Festival details, visit www.nescifest.com.

Other Programs at Joslyn

- Art Encounters (Thursday, February 20; 10:30 am): Art lovers, from the well-seasoned to the amateur, will enjoy a docent-guided tour of Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography. $10 general public adults; $5 college students with valid ID.

- Visualizing Literature – Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis by Timothy Egan (Tuesday, March 10; 10:30 am): Visualizing Literature explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and gallery tours led by Joslyn docents. Presented in partnership with UNMC’s Passport Partners program, Visualizing Literature is open to anyone interested in art and literature. Book discussions are free to Joslyn Members and Passport Partner (UNMC) members; $10 for general public; $5 college students with ID (UNMC students free). Includes Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography admission on March 10. Reservations are required. For details, or to register for the program, please visit www.joslyn.org.

- Stroller Tours (Wednesday, March 18): Joslyn offers docent-guided tours designed for moms, dads, and caregivers to look at and talk about art with other adults, while being mindful of young ones in arms and strollers. Guests gather on the Strauss Bridge at 9:30 am for complimentary refreshments, then head to the galleries at 10 am for tours of Joslyn’s collections and exhibitions. Crying babies welcome! On March 18, the tour will feature Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography. Free for Joslyn members and infants/toddlers; $10 for general public adults (includes exhibition ticket). Space is limited; reservations are requested. Sign-up at least one week in advance at https://www.joslyn.org/visit/kids-programs/

- Art Camps and Classes
Joslyn offers classes and camps for all ages this fall, many inspired by Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography. Online class registration is available; Joslyn members receive discounted registration. Visit https://www.joslyn.org/education/classes/special-class-series/

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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 (additional charge for general public adult tickets to *Fact and Fiction in Contemporary Photography*; see page 2).

**Regular Museum Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late ‘til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

[www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org)  |  (402) 342–3300  |  2200 Dodge Street  |  Omaha, NE 68102