NEWCOMB GALLERY PRESENTS THREE EXHIBITIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictures for Books: Photographs by Thomas Roma
Jazz People: New Orleans Portraits by Lee Friedlander
Pop Shots: Polaroid Portraits by Andy Warhol

From August 24 to October 9, 2011, the Newcomb Art Gallery at Tulane University presents Pictures for Books: Photographs by Thomas Roma, offering a rare opportunity to view nearly 100 prints from four of the artist's published works. In conjunction with the Roma exhibition, the gallery will mount two companion shows, drawn from Tulane's holdings, curated by Newcomb Art Department faculty member Stephen Hilger: Jazz People: New Orleans Portraits by Lee Friedlander and Pop Shots: Polaroid Portraits by Andy Warhol.

“Simultaneous photography shows by three prolific artists, whose displayed works date from 1957 to 2006, provide the Tulane and greater New Orleans communities an extraordinary opportunity to observe how the medium has both reflected and contributed to contemporary life during the second half of the twentieth century,” Hilger said.

Curated by Susan Kismaric and organized by the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, Pictures for Books: Photographs by Thomas Roma features images from Found in Brooklyn; Sicilian Passage; Come Sunday; and On Three Pillars: Torah, Worship, and the Practice of Loving Kindness—The Synagogues of Brooklyn. A member of the post-Diane Arbus and Garry Winogrand generation of photographers, Roma chronicles urban life as it is lived by his fellow residents of Brooklyn, New York—whether riding the elevated subway train, entering storefront synagogues, worshipping in small African-American churches, or waiting in the corridors of the borough’s criminal court. The exhibition allows visitors to study prints of these subjects side by side and view the artist's rare, limited edition hand-bound books. A fully illustrated exhibition catalogue with an essay by Susan Kismaric and a selected bibliography accompanies the exhibition.
The works in *Jazz People: New Orleans Portraits by Lee Friedlander*, thirty-eight black and white photographs from the 1950s and 1960s, are drawn primarily from Tulane's William Ransom Hogan Archive of New Orleans Jazz. Considered one of the most significant American photographers of the postwar era, Friedlander has repeatedly looked to New Orleans as a central photographic subject since first visiting the city in 1957 amid a second revival of traditional jazz. His photographs—whether featuring fabled musicians such as “Sweet Emma” Barrett, Joe James, George Lewis, Alcide “Slow Drag” Pavageau, and “Kid Thomas” Valentine or vibrant street parades and celebrations—form a powerful record of New Orleans' vernacular culture and also represent an early watershed moment in Friedlander's development as an artist.

The thirty-one photographs exhibited in *Pop Shots: Polaroid Portraits by Andy Warhol* come from the large body of images the artist took in the 1970s and 80s as studies for his large-scale silk-screened renderings of elite clients and anonymous sitters alike. The Polaroids are not only fascinating records of Warhol's artistic process but also dynamic images in their own right, recording genuine moments between the artist and his subject. At the time these portraits were made, Polaroid photography, with its capacity to develop instantly, had became a key component of Warhol’s studio practice. The Polaroids on view represent a portion of a generous gift from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Art’s Photographic Legacy Program to the Newcomb Art Gallery, Tulane University in 2008. The display of two Warhol silk-screened canvases, derived from a Polaroid portrait of New Orleanian Tina Freeman, along with a number of Polaroid outtakes from the same portrait session, detail the beginning and end points of his extended art-making process.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS
Born in 1950 in Brooklyn, New York, Thomas Roma is a professor in the Visual Arts Program of the School of the Arts at Columbia University where he is also the director of photography and currently the director of undergraduate studies. His work has appeared in one-person and group exhibitions internationally and is in numerous collections including The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal. He is also a founding contributing photographer to *DoubleTake* magazine. Mr. Roma is twice the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the author of twelve monographs including, most recently, *Dear Knights and Dark Horses* (PowerHouse Books, 2010).
The far-reaching career of Lee Friedlander has included numerous series ranging from portraits, self-portraits, people at work, and nudes to natural landscapes and architectural sequences to others that defy easy categorization. Born in Washington in 1934, he has published more than two dozen photographic monographs, including *The Jazz People of New Orleans* (1992) and *American Musicians* (1998), and has appeared in numerous gallery and museum exhibitions, including John Szarkowski’s groundbreaking 1967 exhibition *New Documents* and the 2005 retrospective *Friedlander*, both at the Museum of Modern Art.

One of the most influential figures in contemporary art and culture, Andy Warhol was born in 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He studied at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), receiving a degree in Pictorial Design in 1949. Beginning his career as a commercial illustrator, Warhol soon turned to fine art. The sixties and early seventies saw the production of Warhol’s most iconic works, often depicting readily found, mass-produced objects, characteristic of the Pop Art Movement. Warhol also embraced work in film and video and developed a strong business in commissioned portraits, becoming highly sought after for his brilliantly colored paintings of politicians, entertainers, intellectuals, athletes, socialites, and heads of state. The artist died in 1987 and is buried in Pittsburgh.

**EXHIBITION RECEPTION**
Wednesday, September 14, 5:00-7:00 – Woodward Way Breezeway, Woldenberg Art Center

A public reception celebrating the opening of the three exhibitions. Guests will enjoy food, drink, and jazz selections performed by students from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA).

**RELATED PROGRAMMING**
In conjunction with *Pictures for Books*, the Gallery will present two educational programs:

*Making Books Symposium*
Wednesday, September 14, 3:30-5:00 – Freeman Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center

A conversation about the creative process of making photography books with Thomas Roma, photographer; Susan Kismaric, curator of *Pictures for Books*; and Phillip Lopate, author and collaborator with Roma for the monograph *On Three Pillars: Torah, Worship, and the Practice of Loving Kindness, The Synagogues of Brooklyn*. Moderated by Stephen Hilger, Assistant Professor, Photography, Newcomb Art Department. Sponsored by Tulane University’s Interdisciplinary Committee for Art and Visual Culture (ICAVC) in conjunction with the Newcomb Art Gallery. Free and open to the public.

*Roma Exhibition Walk-Through*
Thursday, September 15, 1:30 – Newcomb Art Gallery, Woldenberg Art Center

Thomas Roma leads a gallery talk and walk-through of *Pictures for Books: Photographs by Thomas Roma*. Reception with light refreshments to follow.
In addition, Tulane’s Interdisciplinary Committee for Art and Visual Culture (ICAVC) presents:

**Being There: From a Photographer’s Perspective**

Thursday, September 8, 6:00 – Newcomb Art Gallery, Woldenberg Art Center
A discussion of the works on view with Cheryl Aaron, painter, photographer, author, and art therapist.

**SUPPORT**

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**ABOUT THE GALLERY**

The Newcomb Art Gallery is dedicated to enriching the cultural and intellectual life of the Tulane University and New Orleans communities and to sustaining the creative spirit of Newcomb College. Free and open to public, the gallery is located in the Woldenberg Art Center on the Tulane University uptown campus. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5 and Saturday and Sunday 11 to 4. For more information, please call Teresa Parker Farris at 504-314-2406 or visit [www.newcombartgallery.tulane.edu](http://www.newcombartgallery.tulane.edu).

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