



For Immediate Release
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FUTURE–PRESENT

Contemporary Photographs of Children from the Reader's Digest Collection

January 24 – March 14, 1999

Ridgefield, CT (December 28, 1998)—The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art proudly presents *Future-Present: Photographs of Children from the Reader's Digest Collection*. Opening on January 24, at 4 pm, the exhibition will remain on view through March 14, 1999. Organized by the Museum's assistant director, Richard Klein, and Reader's Digest curators Marianne Brunson Frisch and Jill DeVonyar-Zansky, the exhibition marks the first time selections from the Reader's Digest photography collection will have been assembled for public view.

Started in the early 1940s by Lila Acheson Wallace, who was the co-founder of the Reader's Digest along with her husband, DeWitt, the Reader's Digest Collection was originally recognized for its holdings of Impressionist, and early modernist art. The early collection contained works by Manet, Monet, Degas, van Gogh, Matisse, Braque, Picasso, and Giacometti.

In 1988 the Corporate Art Department launched an aggressive art acquisition program, doubling the Reader's Digest Collection's size to 8,000 diverse works in a variety of media—photography, painting, prints, drawings, and other works on paper. Following the policy that Mrs. Wallace had instituted, this program was designed to enhance the working environment and to continue the Reader's Digest's support of the arts. In order to reflect the company's position as an international business leader, the new acquisition program focused on acquiring artworks by emerging and established contemporary artists from the United States and countries throughout the world.

Today, the Reader's Digest Collection is predominantly comprised of modernists and contemporary works. Their collection of photographs of children is the company's most recent endeavor in expanding its collection. Started in 1996, it has already grown to over 275 vintage, modern, and contemporary works by 150 photographers.

Future-Present: Photographs of Children from the Reader's Digest Collection focuses on 73 works produced since 1980 by some of the most significant photographers of the last two decades. A total of forty-nine contemporary artists are represented in The Aldrich Museum exhibition, including **Tina Barney, Ellen Brooks, Marianne Courville, Wendy Ewald, Adam Fuss, Jan Groover, Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, Abelardo Morrell, Nicholas Nixon, Sebastiao Salgado, and Carrie Mae Weems, and Neil Winokur.**

Gallery Talk

On **February 21, from 4 to 6 pm**, art historian **Anne Higonnet**, author of *Pictures of Innocence; the History and Crisis of Ideal Childhood*, will discuss the changing nature of the visual depiction of children in art and popular culture in the context of the ***Future-Present*** exhibition. Higonnet, who is associate professor of art history at Wellesley College, challenges the romantic stereotypes of the universal innocence of childhood in her recent book. \$5 member; \$10 non-member. Call to reserve your seat.

The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art is located in Ridgefield, CT, on Route 35. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm; Friday 12 noon to 8 pm. Admission for adults is \$5; seniors and students \$2; children and members are free. Tuesdays are free all day.

the  aldrich
museum of
contemporary
art

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Contemporary Photographs of Children from The Reader's Digest Collection

Artists in the exhibition

1. Dag Alveng
2. Larry Barnes
3. Tina Barney
4. Adam Bartos
5. Ellen Brooks
6. Steven Brock
7. Suzanne Camp Crosby
8. Keith Carter
9. Vince Cianni
10. Marianne Courville
11. Bruce Cratsley
12. Gerald Cyrus
13. Paul D'Amato
14. Jed Devine
15. Wendy Ewald
16. Dennis Farber
17. Jed Fielding
18. Adam Fuss
19. Andrea Gentl
20. David Goldes
21. David Graham
22. Lauren Greenfield
23. Jan Groover
24. Charles Hagan
25. Henry Horenstein
26. Len Jenshel
27. Sally Mann
28. Robert Mapplethorpe
29. Joel Meyerowitz
30. Howard Seth Miller
31. Andrea Modica
32. Abelardo Morell
33. Nicholas Nixon
34. Nina Prantis
35. Greta Pratt
36. Eugene Richards
37. Judith Ross
38. Sabastio Salgado
39. John Patrick Salisbury
40. Stephen Scheer
41. Gundula Schulze El Dowy
42. Gordon Smith
43. Mark Steinmetz
44. Joel Sternfeld
45. Jane Alden Stevens
46. Katherine Turczan
47. Nick Waplington
48. Carrie Mae Weems
49. Neil Winokur