EN FOCO | IN FOCUS
SELECTED WORKS FROM THE
IN FOCUS PERMANENT COLLECTION

Curated by Elizabeth Ferrer

On view March 14 - May 16, 2012

AMA | ART MUSEUM of the AMERICAS
F STREET PHOTO GALLERY
1889 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Hours: MON-FRI | 9AM - 5PM

Opening Reception + Gallery Talk
Wednesday, March 14 at 6PM

AMA | Art Museum of the Americas of the Organization of American States announces En Foco, an exhibition of selected works from the En Foco collection of works by photographers of Latin American, African, Asian, and Native American heritage. The exhibition’s multicultural discourse on racial, gender, and personal identity and issues of human rights are presented at the OAS photo gallery as a critical artistic component to the Organization’s ongoing work to protect human and civil rights in the American hemisphere and promote diplomacy among its diverse member States.

The earliest works in the exhibition, dating to the 1970s and ‘80s, reflect the documentary impulse that characterized photographic work produced during and in the aftermath of the civil rights era. In contrast to photographic essays of the period exposing inner-city decay, these are images by people who lived in and understood the rhythms of life in these neighborhoods. Cultural representation by outsiders became self-representation, as the camera became a potent means of political and self-expression.

The second part of the exhibition traces En Foco’s mission, as it broadened its scope beyond Latino photographers.
The organization reflected the multicultural discourse of the 1990s. Numerous photographers of this decade (and increasingly visual artists drawn to photography as a tool) deployed the medium to examine identity (racial, ethnic, sexual, gender-based), otherness, and the social and cultural contexts that shape perspectives on the self.

The final part of this exhibition looks at En Foco from 2000 to the present day. The youngest photographers are reflective of the contemporary art scene’s global landscape. These photographers approach photography with great freedom, drawing from multiple photographic traditions, cultural histories, and creative modes. Nevertheless, for all of these photographers, the printed image remains profoundly valued for its endless capacity to document, communicate, exhort, and express the continuing flux of life.

This exhibition promotes a parallel history of photography by bringing together artists and images largely absent from mainstream photography. The show is comprised of 56 striking prints by 48 contemporary artists of 21 differing ethnicities/nationalities. The work dates from the 1970s to the present day, and offers a unique look at the missing history of photographers who used the camera to document their neighborhoods in the ‘70s and ‘80s, pressed for the inclusion of multicultural voices in artistic, political and media spheres in the ‘90s and those whom increasingly comment on both local and universal themes using the virtual realm in the present.

*En Foco* is curated by Elizabeth Ferrer is Director of Contemporary Art at BRIC Arts|Media|Bklyn, Brooklyn, NY. She is also a writer and curator specializing in Mexican and Latino photography. More more information on En Foco, visit enfoco.org and for more information about AMA visit AMAmuseum.org

**THE ARTISTS**

ADÁL  
SAMA ALSHAIBI  
LOUIS CARLOS BERNAL  
TERRY BODDIE  
VALDIR CRUZ  
ANA DE ORBEGOSO  
LOLA FLASH  
MURIEL HASBUN  
NITZA LUNA  
HECTOR MÉNDEZ CARATINI  
ANNU PALAKUNNATHU MATTHEW  
TONY MENDOZA  
PIPO NGUYEN-DUY  
SOPHIE RIVERA  
JANE TAM  
KATHY VARGAS

JAISHRI ABICHANDANI  
DON GREGORIO ANTÓN  
DAWOUD BEY  
SAMANTHA BOX  
GERALD CYRUS  
LUIS DELGADO  
RICKY FLORES  
GERMÁN HERRERA  
GEORGE MALAVE  
STEPHEN MARC  
LARRY MCNEIL  
NÉSTOR MILLÁN  
DULCE PINZÓN  
JUAN SÁNCHEZ  
HANK WILLIS THOMAS  
VÍCTOR VÁZQUEZ  
MAX AGUILERA HELLWEG  
CHUY BENITEZ  
CHARLES BIASINY-RIVERA  
ROGER CABÁN  
PHIL DANTE  
DEÁN DEMPSEY  
MYRA GREENE  
KENRO IZU  
FRANK X. MÉNDEZ  
RANIA MATAR  
GROANA MELENDEZ  
DELILAH MONTOYA  
BONNIE PORTELANE  
KUNIÉ SUGIURA  
HONG-AN TRUONG  
WENDEL WHITE