



FOTOWEEK DC INC

3247 Q STREET NW

WASHINGTON DC 20007

202.337.FOTO

www.FotoWeekDC.org

Washington, D.C. Zooms-in on Local Photographers with Inaugural FOTOWEEK DC Festival

November 15 – 22, 2008

Washington, D.C.—November 15-22, 2008 marks the launch of **FotoWeek DC**, the first annual gathering of a diverse and wide-ranging photography community in the nation's capital, including photographers, museums, galleries, universities, and all those involved in the profession and art of photography throughout Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland. Unique among American cities, Washington, D.C. is a nexus of artistic, business, political, journalistic, and public sector energy, in which photography plays an integral role. FotoWeek DC unites professional photographers, imaging professionals, photography enthusiasts, amateurs, and students from every discipline to join with the public in celebration of the medium.

Gallery owner and FotoWeek DC board member George Hemphill states that "FotoWeek DC is not only about the participation of photographers from amateur to professional, from kindergarten to adult, but is also about the inclusion of all areas of the DC Metro area from Bethesda to Anacostia and beyond.

To recognizing the most talented photographers in the area, **FotoWeek DC features a contest and juried exhibition open to professionals, amateurs, and students with more than \$37,000 in cash and prizes. The panel of judges; the most distinguished assembly for an event of this type; include Tipper Gore, David Hicks, Linda B. Meyerriecks, John Nuhn, Bill Regardie, Joyce Tenneson, Susan Welchman, and others.** A full list can be found at <http://www.fotoweekdccontest.org/judges.shtml>.

The Youth Photo Contest, sponsored by *The Washington Post* and FotoWeek DC, is open to children in grades K-12, with categories of submission including people, animals, landscape, and sports. Judges for the youth competition include Jay Sumner, photo editor of *National Geographic Kids Magazine*, and Joe Elbert, Former Assistant Managing Editor of Photography for *The Washington Post*. Irene Owsley, co-President of the American Association of Media Photographers and FotoWeek DC Board Member states, "In DC, we have not only talented photographers but we have amazingly rich collections of photography to visit and to learn from. We need to expose our kids to that, and encourage them to participate. What better way than to bring them into the fold through their own forays into image-making?"

In addition to the photo contests, **FotoWeek DC features the largest group of photographic exhibitions in the history of Washington, D.C.**, with more than 50 galleries to display an astounding array of photographic styles, techniques and subjects. The week will also present a broad range of experiences including shows and events at several embassies; lunch time lectures hosted by the Discovery Communications; portfolio reviews at the Corcoran Gallery of Art; educational workshops; book signings; and special offers on services and merchandise.

In only its first year, "FotoWeek DC has positioned itself as the region's premier photography festival and we are committed to seeing it grow even

further in the coming years,” comments Theo Adamstein, FotoWeek DC Board Member and owner of Chrome Imaging, FotoWeek DC’s Founding Sponsor.

The week-long celebration culminates in a gala awards ceremony on Saturday, November 22, 2008 hosted by FotoWeek DC and National Geographic. A photography exhibition in Explorer’s Hall is planned during FotoWeek DC to showcase National Geographic’s valuable and historically significant photographic archive.

Paul Feters, Co-President of The American Association of Media Photographers DC Chapter states, “FotoWeek DC is a ray of light during a challenging time for professional photographers. This will be an opportunity to show our work, talk about our work, be with colleagues, and trade ideas with amateurs and students who have helped create an artistic revival for the medium in the digital age.”

For more information about FotoWeek DC, including instructions for entering the photo contests, please visit www.fotoweekdc.org.

###

Media inquiries should be directed to Awa Kwawu at The Awa Agency; awa@theawaagency.com; 202-295-9043.