



FOTOWEEK DC INC

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Washington, D.C., Hosts Inaugural FotoWeek DC

November 15–22, 2008

Annual area-wide celebration of photography to culminate in gala awards ceremony

April 30, 2008

Washington, D.C. – Today, FotoWeek DC, Inc., announces the launch of FotoWeek DC, the first annual celebration of photography in the nation’s capital. FotoWeek DC will take place November 15–22, 2008, bringing together photographers, museums, universities, and others involved in the profession across the metro D.C. area, including Virginia and Maryland.

FotoWeek DC will feature a photography contest and juried exhibition open to professional and amateur photographers, along with gallery openings, lectures, educational workshops, portfolio reviews, book signings, and special offers on photographic services and merchandise from local area retailers. The week-long celebration will culminate in a gala awards ceremony hosted by FotoWeek DC sponsor National Geographic, recognizing area photographers across several genres, including photojournalism, commercial, fine art, amateur, and student photography. FotoWeek DC will issue a call for competition entries this spring.

National Geographic joins Chrome Imaging, FotoWeek DC’s founding sponsor, as a major contributor to the event. Comments Chrome Imaging’s founder, THEO ADAMSTEIN, “Washington, D.C., is an important center for photography, thanks to its unique position as the nexus of news, politics, public policy, and culture. Washington is also home to some of the world’s finest photography collections—including the Smithsonian, National Gallery of Art, Library of Congress, and National Geographic. We hope this multifaceted celebration of photography places Washington, D.C., firmly on the international map as an epicenter of photographic excellence.”

The culminating gala and awards ceremony will be held at the National Geographic Society’s headquarters in downtown DC on Saturday, November 22, 2008; a fall photography exhibition in Explorers Hall is planned during FotoWeek DC to introduce National Geographic’s valuable and historically important photographic archive. Comments JOHN Q. GRIFFIN, President of NGS Publishing: “For 120 years National Geographic has been committed to raising awareness of the world through excellent photography. We are pleased to play a role in celebrating photography right here in our own community.” National Geographic editors and photographers will participate in several events during FotoWeek DC.

Adds FRANK VAN RIPER, photography columnist for *The Washington Post*. “Photographs in Washington are used to promote a cause, elect a president, re-elect members of Congress, sell an idea, create an agenda. But they also are used - as they are everywhere - to help people feel, to help them appreciate beauty: to better connect with their world. We hope FotoWeek DC becomes a major cultural event for Washington, much more than a local event, reflecting D.C.’s role as an international city.”

The organizers of FotoWeek DC include representatives from a wide range of fields and disciplines, including Theo Adamstein of Chrome Imaging, Lynn Ackerson of *National Geographic Traveler Magazine*, George Hemphill of Hemphill Fine Arts, and educator Barbara Tyroler of the University of Maryland. Founding organizers and photographers Paul Feters and Irene Owsley, Co-presidents of the DC Chapter of the American Society of Media Photographers, offer their long-time experience in the DC photography community, as they interact with a vibrant and talented group of photographers and photography professionals on a daily basis. The two see their involvement with FotoWeek DC as a way to recognize the extraordinary caliber of work produced and shown locally, nationally, and abroad. Says FETERS, “A festival that highlights striking imagery benefits our artistic community and enriches the city as a whole.”

About FotoWeek DC

FotoWeek DC’s mission is to unite and strengthen the Washington, D.C. photography community through recognition and celebration. Each year, photographers, students, and all those associated with the medium in a variety of disciplines will come together to bring light and acknowledgment to the vibrant and ever-changing photography community. FotoWeek DC Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated in the District of Columbia.

For more information on FotoWeek DC, including how to enter the FotoWeek DC professional and amateur photography competition, please visit www.FotoWeekDC.org. For media inquiries, please contact Penelope Bell at Mediaware Communications on 301.768.9160 penelope@mediawarecommunications.com.