
California Museum of Photography ▪ Culver Center of the Arts

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Douglas McCulloh, Senior Curator, Interim Executive Director UCR ARTS
Cell: 323.309.8076, douglas.mcculloh@ucr.edu

Contact: Kathryn Poindexter, Exhibitions Manager, 951.824.6497, kathryn.poindexter@ucr.edu

THIS FALL ▪ Four Original Exhibitions

Triumph, Tragedy, and Turning Points: the Black Experience in America

David C. Driskell and Friends: Creativity, Collaboration, and Friendship

September 2, 2023 to December 23, 2023 ▪ California Museum of Photography

Fall Reception: Saturday, October 7, 2023 ▪ 6:00–8:00 pm ▪ *Free and Open to the Public*

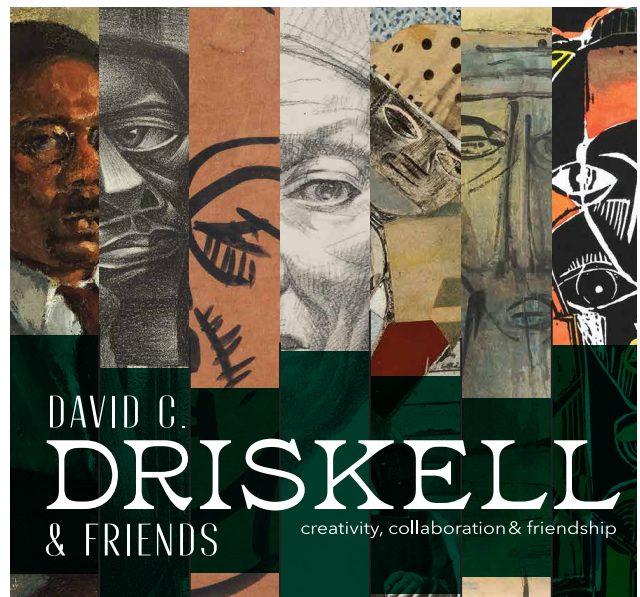
Panel Discussion with the Curators: Saturday, October 7, 2023 ▪ 4:00 pm ▪ *Free and Open to the Public*

David C. Driskell and Friends: Creativity, Collaboration, and Friendship highlights the artistic legacy of David C. Driskell and the importance of his relationships with fellow artist friends—many of whom hold a significant place in the art canon.

The exhibition explores the work of, and Driskell's relationships with, such figures as Hale Woodruff, James Porter, Elizabeth Catlett, Kara Walker, Romare Bearden, Keith Morrison, Jacob Lawrence, and many more. Original works of art created by Driskell are also featured, as well as ephemera from the Driskell Papers that exemplify the artists' unique friendships.

David C. Driskell and Friends is curated by Sheila Bergman, PhD, Catalina Museum for Art & History (past Executive Director, UCR ARTS); Curlee Raven Holton, Driskell Center, University of Maryland; and Heather Sincavage, Wilkes University.

Exhibitions at UCR ARTS are supported by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at UCR, and by the City of Riverside.





Jon Henry, *Untitled #42, Central Los Angeles, CA, 2019*.
Image courtesy of the artist.

Jon Henry, *Stranger Fruit*

September 23, 2023 to February 11, 2024
California Museum of Photography

Fall Reception: Saturday, October 7, 2023 • 6:00–8:00 pm
Free and Open to the Public

Artist Talk: Saturday, October 7, 2023 • 6:00 pm
Free and Open to the Public

Stranger Fruit is a prayer, a protest, a silent commemoration, a call to action. Artist Jon Henry was haunted by the 2006 shooting of 23-year-old Sean Bell, one among scores of Black lives lost to police violence. The photographer’s response became a country-spanning set of modern American Pietàs—Black mothers cradling their sons. The mothers feel the weight of their sons, we feel the weight of love, of violence, of history.

The Impact of Images: Mamie Till’s Courage from Tragedy

November 4, 2023 to March 30, 2024
Culver Center of the Arts

Winter Reception: Saturday, March 2, 2024 • 6:00–8:00 pm
Free and open to the public

The lynching of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till by white supremacists in 1955 was a shocking tragedy, made worse by the appalling miscarriage of justice in the trial that followed. Emmett’s mother, Mamie, courageously made the decision to forego the privacy of her devastating loss by insisting the world see what they had done to her son. She chose to have an open casket funeral and invited the Black press corps in order to provide visual evidence of this tragedy to the world.

The collective awakening and the actions that followed contributed directly to the Civil Rights Movement. This photography exhibition begins with family photos of Mamie and Emmett, but at the core are extraordinary images made by Black photojournalists.

The Impact of Images is curated by Chris Flannery, CEO of 1966 Americas, and Charles Long, Professor of Art at UCR. Materials from The Withers Collection, the Medgar Evers family, and the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation, among other sources.



“Mrs. Mamie Till talks to reporters after her appearance at the trial caused so much furor that a recess was called.” 1955. Courtesy of the Bettmann Archive.

Ballast: Recent Aesthetic Practices in Response to Anti-Blackness

November 4, 2023 to March 30, 2024 • Culver Center of the Arts

Winter Reception: Saturday, March 2, 2024 • 6:00–8:00 pm • *Free and open to the public*

Ballast centers the critical framework known as Afro-Pessimism and presents aesthetic practices that engage the paradigm of anti-Blackness across and beyond historical and contemporary social contexts. The exhibition presents recent work by artists E. Chris Brady, Boz Deseo Garden, Tarik Garrett, Keko Jackson, Acacia Marable, LaRissa Rogers, and Zenobia, collectively from MFA programs at UCR, UCI, and UCLA. By critically examining dominant cultural narratives and institutions, centering the experiences of Black subjects, engaging with the materiality of anti-Blackness, and challenging dominant notions of the “Human,” these artists engage Afro-Pessimism’s interventions both explicitly and implicitly across diverse practices and mediums.



Boz Deseo Garden, *après-coup: 6 of 1,400* (detail), 2023. Cement, waste incinerator ash, calcium oxide (seashells), and iron. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Ian Byers-Gamber.

Ballast is curated by E. Chris Brady, Graduate Student in the Department of Art at UCR.

About UCR ARTS

The California Museum of Photography is the photography museum of the University of California. Founded in 1973, the museum stages exhibitions concerned with the intersection of photography, new imaging, and society. With more than 500,000 objects, it holds one of the major photography collections in the United States. The museum serves a diverse California, U.S. and international audience with research, exhibitions, education, performance, programming, and publications. **The Culver Center of the Arts** advances the understanding and appreciation of the arts through extraordinary experiences in contemporary visual and performing art, as well as a rich ongoing film program. Culver Center facilities include a 72-seat state-of-the-art screening room, computer lab, dance studios, exhibition spaces, and a black box studio and recording facility. From major exhibitions, artist projects, performances, and community programs, UCR ARTS engages both global and regional communities.

UCR ARTS is located in a two-building complex at 3824 + 3834 Main Street in downtown Riverside.

Hours are Thursday to Friday: noon–5:00 pm, Saturday to Sunday: 11:00 am–4:00 pm

ucrarts.ucr.edu • 951.827.4787
