About ICP

BACKGROUND
The International Center of Photography (ICP) was founded in 1974 by Cornell Capa (1918-2008) as an institution dedicated to photography that occupies a vital and central place in contemporary culture as it reflects and influences social change. Through its museum, school, and community programs, it embraces photography’s ability to open new opportunities for personal and aesthetic expression, transform popular culture, and continually evolve to incorporate new technologies.

Since its founding, ICP has presented more than 500 exhibitions, bringing the work of more than 3,000 photographers and other artists to the public in one-person and group exhibitions and provided thousands of classes and workshops that have enriched tens of thousands of students. ICP is also a collecting institution; holdings now include more than 160,000 original prints that span the history of photography.

The museum has a diverse audience of more than 175,000 viewers annually, including over 10,000 students through tour programs and other outreach. More than 25 percent of ICP’s visitors come from states outside New York, and another 20 percent live outside the U.S. The website receives 5 million hits per year from nearly 1 million individual users in more than 200 countries and territories.

PROGRAMS
Exhibitions. ICP hosts eight to 12 exhibitions annually. These diverse presentations cover the entire spectrum of photography, ranging from early daguerreotypes, documentary photojournalism, and contemporary fashion portraits to multi-media installations that employ both traditional and digital techniques. ICP’s exhibitions attract significant recognition in the field and receive wide critical acclaim. Through the Traveling Exhibitions program, ICP exhibitions are seen around the world, reaching an audience of nearly 1 million viewers annually.

Education and Community Outreach. ICP operates one of the world’s most extensive schools of photography, serving more than 6,000 students each year, offering 600 courses that include full-time certificate and master’s degree programs. Educational programming also includes a 20-week lecture series, seminars, symposia, guided tours, and other complementary activities that make ICP dynamic and unique among museums and cultural institutions. Community Programs bring photography to an additional 10,000 students, senior citizens, and underserved constituents in New York City each year.

Publications, Library, and Museum Store. ICP publications include award-winning exhibition catalogues through the ICP/Steidl imprint, exhibition brochures, and SHIFT, a publication of work by ICP’s full-time students. The ICP library comprises approximately 18,000 books and more than 2,000 photographer artist files, as well as 150 periodical titles. The ICP museum store offers more than 5,000 photographic books, photography-related catalogues, magazines, posters, and gift items.

MEMBERSHIP
ICP has an international membership of nearly 4,000 individuals as well as corporate members, including Bank of America, Bloomberg LP, Canon U.S.A., Condé Nast, Consolidated Edison, Eastman Kodak, The Estée Lauder Companies, Goldman Sachs, Marsh & McLennan, MetLife, Morgan Stanley, National Geographic, Nikon Inc., Pentax Imaging Company, and the law firms of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler and White & Case.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The 30-member Board of Trustees includes representatives from the real estate, publishing, legal, finance, and insurance industries, among others.