



79 Essex Street  
New York, NY 10002  
icp.org

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# About the International Center of Photography

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Cornell Capa founded ICP in 1974 to champion “concerned photography”—the creation of socially and politically minded images that can educate and change the world—and the Center's aim endures today, even as the photographic medium and imagemaking practices have evolved.

To date, ICP has presented more than 700 solo and group exhibitions that have featured the work of some 3,000 photographers and other artists. It has offered thousands of classes and workshops that have enriched tens of thousands of students. The center also actively collects; ICP's holdings now include more than 200,000 original prints, negatives, and objects that span the history of photography.

ICP brings together photographers, artists, students, and scholars to create and interpret the realm of the image. Here, members of this unique community are encouraged to explore photography and visual culture as mediums of empowerment and as catalysts for wide-reaching social change. Through its exhibitions, education programs, community outreach, and public programs, the Center offers an open forum for dialogue about the role that photographs, videos, and new media play in our society.

ICP's website and social media channels serve more than 1 million individual users in some 200 countries worldwide.

## Move to Essex Crossing

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In January 2020, ICP opened its new home on the Lower East Side, becoming the cultural anchor of Essex Crossing, one of the most highly anticipated and expansive mixed-use developments in New York City. ICP's new location features 40,000 square feet of exhibition, education, and administration space, including galleries, media labs, classrooms, darkrooms, an equipment room, and shooting studios, as well as public event spaces.

Moving to Essex is the culmination of 20 years of planning and initiates an exciting new era for ICP, reuniting our school and museum and creating an engaging space for museumgoers, ICP members, students, and the Lower East Side community. The neighborhood's history as a center of immigration and documentary and creative work-making align with ICP's place as a center for our community to explore photography and visual culture as mediums of empowerment and catalysts for social change.

## Exhibitions

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ICP's exhibitions attract a diverse audience comprising more than 60,000 annual visitors, including 7,000 students, through tour programs and other outreach efforts. More than 25 percent of visitors reside outside New York State, and another 20 percent live outside the United States.

ICP hosts six to 10 exhibitions annually. These widely acclaimed, diverse shows cover the entire spectrum of the medium—from early daguerreotypes, documentary images, and contemporary fashion photography to multimedia installations that employ both traditional and digital techniques—and consistently attract significant recognition in the field. ICP also has a robust traveling exhibitions program, which ensures that select presentations can reach millions of additional viewers around the world.

Communications Team  
press@icp.org  
212.857.0048

📷 @ICP  
🐦 @ICPhotog  
📘 @ICP



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## Education

ICP operates one of the world's most extensive photography education programs—offering more than 700 courses throughout the year and serving more than 3,500 students annually. The ICP's school includes three full-time certificate programs in Creative Practices, Documentary Practice and Visual Journalism, and New Media Narratives, and an MFA program in association with Bard College. More than 60 percent of our full-time students are internationally based, from Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Middle East. We also offer teen classes, guided tours, and other complementary activities.

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## Community Programs

ICP's Community Programs include Teen Academy, Community Partnerships, and Museum Education. Our Teen Academy and Community Partnerships serve over 1,000 young people from across the tri-state area every year by developing their knowledge of photography, critical thinking, writing, and public speaking. Classes take place onsite and at community-based organizations in underserved neighborhoods. Museum Education serves over 5,000 students and teachers annually by providing tours, workshops, interpretive materials, and professional development both on and off-site, focusing on visual literacy and storytelling. Building upon ICP's commitment to access, diversity, and inclusion, programming and resources are offered free of charge or with significant need-based scholarships.

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## Public Programs

ICP's public programs generate stimulating public dialogues between photographic and visual culture communities, academics, and collaborative partners from a range of creative and community-based organizations. They explore the complex challenges facing our world, increasingly informed by the dynamic impact of visual culture and media. Programming includes artist talks, panel discussions, screenings, book signings, and performances.

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## Library and Publications

ICP's library comprises over 20,000 books and videos, more than 2,500 artist files, and 50 current periodical titles. ICP publications include award-winning exhibition catalogues; exhibition brochures; and SHIFT, a publication of work by ICP's full-time students.

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## Shop

ICP's shop features a comprehensive photography book selection as well as imaginatively curated objects and apparel for sale in the lobby of 79 Essex Street. An online shop will soon launch.

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## Café

ICP's café, opening soon in the lobby 79 Essex Street, will offer pastries and sandwiches prepared by Café D'Avignon and feature La Colombe coffee and tea. Free WiFi will be available.

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## Membership

ICP has a membership of nearly 2,500 individuals as well as corporate members, including Hearst, The Standard Hotel East Village, Thomson Reuters, and others.

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## Board of Trustees

ICP's Board of Trustees comprises representatives from the art, photography, architecture, real estate, advertising, publishing, media, and financial industries, among others.