



Contacts:

Media: Kelly Heisler at 212.857.9707 or kheisler@icp.org

Event: Samantha Mascali at 212.857.0032 or smascali@icp.org

International Center of Photography Announces 2012 Infinity Awards Winners

Daidō Moriyama Recognized for Lifetime Achievement; Ai Weiwei Receives Cornell Capa Award

New York, NY (February 8, 2012) - The International Center of Photography (ICP) will recognize Daidō Moriyama for Lifetime Achievement and will honor Ai Weiwei with the Cornell Capa Award at the 28th Annual Infinity Awards gala event on **Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers**, in New York City. This year, 10 recipients will be recognized.

Celebrated at ICP's largest annual fundraiser, the Infinity Awards are widely respected as the leading honor for excellence in the field of photography. The full range of ICP's programs, including exhibitions, education, collections, and community outreach benefit from funds raised by the Infinity Awards.

"Each year ICP acknowledges the work of those whose powerful images and words excite, engage, and enliven us," said ICP Ehrenkranz Director Willis E. Hartshorn. We are especially honored to recognize Daidō Moriyama and Ai Weiwei, two artists who embody the Infinity Award recipient ideal—those who are dedicated to exploring photography's cultural influence and how it creates opportunities for communication and personal expression. We are pleased to recognize the achievement of this year's recipients."

Since 1985, the annual ICP Infinity Awards recognize major contributions and emerging talent in the fields of photojournalism, art, fashion photography, publishing, and writing. More than 500 prominent individuals from the business, fashion, philanthropy, art, entertainment, and photography worlds are present to celebrate the world's leading photography professionals and demonstrate their commitment to creative expression and artistic achievement.

THE 2012 RECIPIENTS

Lifetime Achievement: Daidō Moriyama

Cornell Capa Award: Ai Weiwei

ICP Trustees Award: John "Launny" Steffens

Young Photographer: Anouk Kruithof

Writing: David Company

Art: Stan Douglas

Publication: *The Worker-Photography Movement 1926–1939*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid

Photojournalism: Benjamin Lowy

Applied/Fashion/Advertising: Maurice Scheltens and Liesbeth Abbenes

Born in 1938 in Osaka, Daidō Moriyama is an innovative street photographer whose high-contrast images portray an unstable, uncertain world. In the 1960s, he served as an assistant to photographer Eikoh Hosoe and then began his own freelance career. He has received multiple awards, including the New Artist Award from the Japan Photo Critics Association (1967) and the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Photographic Society of Japan (2004). His work has been exhibited throughout the world, and his numerous books are considered landmarks of photographic publishing.

Born in 1957 in Beijing, Ai Weiwei is known for his audacious conceptual sculpture and photographs, and for his photographic images of New York's Lower East Side in the 1980s. He gained international prominence after the Chinese government shut down his politically dissident blog and then seized him on spurious tax-evasion charges in April 2011. His three-month detention in prison provoked an outpouring of protests from artists, museum directors, and human rights advocates, leading to his release in June 2011. His work has been exhibited worldwide.

Past winners of the top awards have included Elliott Erwitt, Ruth Gruber, Robert Frank, Mary Ellen Mark, Marc Riboud, André Kertész, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Berenice Abbott, Richard Avedon, Harold Evans, Alexander Liberman, Gordon Parks, Helen Levitt, Annie Leibovitz, Lee Friedlander, William Klein, Susan Meiselas, Roy DeCarava, Malick Sidibé, John G. Morris, and Karl Lagerfeld.

Selection Committee

The 2012 recipient selection committee includes:

Jennifer Blessing, Senior Curator, Photography, Guggenheim Museum, New York
Sophie Hackett, Assistant Curator of Photography, Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada
Michael Mack, Publisher, MACK, London

Nominators

The following nominated candidates for the awards:

Geoffrey Batchen, Professor, Art History, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand
Marina Berio, Chair, General Studies Program, International Center of Photography, New York
Sean Corcoran, Curator of Prints and Photographs, Museum of the City of New York, New York
Corinne Diserens, Curator/Art Historian, Paris
Elisabeth Gottfried, Editor-In-Chief, *EIKON Magazine*, Vienna
Winfried Heining, Publisher and Designer, Kodoji Press, Baden, Switzerland
Whitney Johnson, Director of Photography, The New Yorker, New York
Yossi Milo, Owner, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York
Stephen Pinson, Curator of Photography, New York Public Library, New York
Fred Ritchin, Professor, New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York
Bonnie Rubenstein, Artistic Director, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto
Aveek Sen, Writer, Calcutta, India
Wang Chunchen, Curator, Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Beijing
Lim Young Kyun, Professor, Chung-Ang University, Seoul

The Lifetime Achievement, Cornell Capa, and ICP Trustee Award honorees are selected by the ICP Board of Trustees and senior staff. The Trustee Award will be announced at a later date.

THE 2012 INFINITY AWARDS

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers, New York City

6:30 pm Cocktails

7:45 pm Dinner and Awards Ceremony

About ICP

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 place in contemporary culture as it reflects and influences social change. Through our museum, school and community programs, we embrace photography's ability to open new opportunities for personal and aesthetic expression, transform popular culture, and continually evolve to incorporate new technologies. 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 has provided thousands of classes and workshops that have enriched tens of thousands of students. Visit www.icp.org for more information.

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