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Mariah Robertson. *154* [detail]. 2010. Courtesy collection Dan and Barbara Newman.
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# What Is a Photograph?

On view from
January 31, 2014
through
May 4, 2014

Media Preview
January 30, 2014
11:30am-1:30pm

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On view at the International Center of Photography from January 31 through May 4, 2014, *What Is a Photograph?* explores the range of creative experimentation that has occurred in photography since the 1970s.

This major exhibition brings together 21 emerging and established artists who have reconsidered and reinvented the role of light, color, composition, materiality, and the subject in the art of photography. In the process, they have also confronted an unexpected revolution in the medium with the rise of digital technology, which has resulted in imaginative reexaminations of the art of analog photography, the new world of digital images, and the hybrid creations of both systems as they come together.

"Artists around the globe have been experimenting with and redrawing the boundaries of traditional photography for decades," said ICP Curator Carol Squiers, who organized the exhibit. "Although digital photography seems to have made analog obsolete, artists continue to make works that are photographic objects, using both old technologies and new, crisscrossing boundaries and blending techniques."

Among those included in the exhibition is Lucas Samaras, who adopted the newly developed Polaroid camera in the late 1960s and early 1970s and immediately began altering its instant prints, creating fantastical nude self-portraits. Another artist who turned to photography in the 1970s was Sigmar Polke. Although better known as a painter, Polke explored nontraditional ways of photographing and printing, manipulating both his film and prints in the darkroom and often drawing and painting on his images.

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More recently, Liz Deschenes has used camera-less photography in a subtle investigation of nonrepresentational forms of expression and the outmoded technologies of photography. And, James Welling has created a heterogeneous body of work that explores optics, human perception, and a range of photographic genres both abstract and representational.

## COMPLETE LIST OF EXHIBITION ARTISTS

**Matthew Brandt** b. 1982, Los Angeles; lives and works in Los Angeles.
**Marco Breuer** b. 1966, Landshut, Germany; lives and works in New York State.
**Liz Deschenes** b. 1966, Boston; lives and works in New York City.
**Adam Fuss** b. 1961, London; lives and works in New York City.
**Owen Kydd** b. 1975, Calgary, Canada; lives and works in Los Angeles.
**Floris Neusüss** b. 1937, Lennep, Germany; lives and works in Kassel, Germany.
**Marlo Pascual** b. 1972, Nashville; lives and works in Brooklyn.
**Sigmar Polke** 1941–2010; Germany.
**Eileen Quinlan** b. 1972, Boston; lives and works in New York City.
**Jon Rafman** b. 1981, Montreal; lives and works in Montreal.
**Gerhard Richter** b. 1932, Dresden; lives and works in Cologne.
**Mariah Robertson** b. 1975, Indianapolis, Indiana; lives and works in Brooklyn.
**Alison Rossiter** b. 1953, Jackson, Mississippi; lives and works in the metro New York area.
**Lucas Samaras** b. 1936, Macedonia, Greece; lives and works in New York City.
**David Benjamin Sherry** b. 1981, Woodstock, New York; lives and works in Los Angeles.
**Travess Smalley** b. 1986, Huntington, West Virginia; lives and works in New York City.
**Kate Steciw** b. 1978, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; lives and works in Brooklyn.
**Artie Vierkant** b. 1986, Breinerd, Minnesota; lives and works in New York City.
**James Welling** b. 1951, Hartford, Connecticut; lives and works in Los Angeles.
**Christopher Williams** b. 1956, Los Angeles; lives and works in Cologne, Düsseldorf, and Amsterdam.
**Letha Wilson** b. 1976, Honolulu; lives and works in Brooklyn.

## CATALOGUE
The show will be accompanied by a full-color catalogue published by DelMonico Books • Prestel with essays by Carol Squiers, Geoffrey Batchen, Hito Steyerl, and George Baker.

*What Is a Photograph?* (ICP/ DelMonico Books • Prestel, 2014)
224 pages + 200 illustrations
9 1/4 x 11 inches
Hardcover; US $49.95
Publication date: January 2014

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**ALSO ON VIEW**

**Capa in Color**
January 31–May 4, 2014

Organized by ICP Curator Cynthia Young, this exhibition will feature Robert Capa's color work for the first time. Beginning in the late 1930s, Capa began experimenting with color film and used it regularly until his death in 1954. Some of these images were published in the magazines of the day, but the majority have never been seen or even printed. Posthumous exhibitions and publications have ignored Capa's color photography and this aspect of his career has virtually been forgotten. The exhibition will present nearly 100 contemporary color prints by the famous photojournalist. It will also include contextual publications and personal papers to offer a fascinating new look on this master of photography. *Capa in Color* presents a pioneer of color photography, years before it was considered an acceptable medium for serious photographers.

**About ICP**
The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to the practice and understanding of photography and the reproduced image in all its forms. Through our exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach, we offer an open forum for dialogue about the role images play in our culture. Since our founding, we have presented more than 500 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes, providing instruction at every level. ICP is a center where photographers and artists, students and scholars can create and interpret the world of the image within our comprehensive educational and archival facilities. Visit www.icp.org for more information.

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