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**International Center of Photography to Launch Series of Scholarly
Convenings Exploring Critical Issues in Photography**

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New York, NY (April 2, 2013)—The International Center of Photography (ICP) has been awarded a \$125,000 grant by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to launch an intellectual planning project that will encompass three scholarly research convenings, as well as the continued development of collaboration with international institutions.

Through the symposia, ICP will investigate the changing status of the photograph today, stimulate research into the history of photography and photographic archives, and foster the broad scholarly exploration of the image as the purveyor of cultural content in today's world. The findings and discussions of the symposia will be synthesized in a series of publications. As a companion to these programs, ICP staff will travel to a global array of cultural institutions to cultivate relationships with colleagues at each site and plan for future projects.

"We are grateful to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for providing ICP with the resources to contribute to our larger institutional analysis and critique," said Mark Robbins, Executive Director of ICP. "Through the support of scholarship and curatorial research, ICP enhances its position in the global discourse on contemporary image making."

ICP Research Convenings**Convening #1: What Is a Photograph?**

Organized by ICP Curator **Carol Squiers**, this private convening will take place on April 5 in New York and bring together leading scholars, curators, and artists from partnering institutions both nationally and internationally to interrogate the nature, purpose, and ontological status of the photographic image in contemporary culture. Participants include **William J. T. Mitchell**, Professor of English and Art History, University of Chicago; **Charlotte Cotton**, independent curator, London; **Matthew Witkovsky**, curator and chair, Department of Photography, The Art Institute of Chicago; **James Welling**, artist, Professor of Photography, Department of Art, UCLA; **David Joselit**, Carnegie Professor of Art History, Yale University; **Nora Kennedy**, conservator, Metropolitan Museum of Art; and **Artie Vierkant**, artist, New York.

The exhibition *What Is a Photograph?*, also organized by Squiers, will be on view at ICP January 24–May 4, 2014, and will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue.

Convening #2: What Is the Image Globally?

Organized by ICP Curator **Christopher Phillips** and ICP Curator and Associate Director of Exhibitions **Kristen Lubben**, the second convening will take place on July 11 and coincide with *A Different Kind of Order: The ICP Triennial*, on view May 17–September 8, 2013. This public session will be held at New York University and explores photography's place in a rapidly shifting media terrain: Is photography a viable international language in a globalized and digitally connected world? Can it, in fact, collapse geographic boundaries? Panelists also discuss the ways in which artists, documentarians, and other image makers are responding to the challenges and opportunities of image-sharing across a global network.

(more)

Convening #3: What Is an Archive?

Organized by ICP Curator of Collections **Edward Earle**, ICP Curator Capa Collections **Cynthia Young**, and ICP Assistant Curator of Collections **Erin Barnett**, the final convening will take place in October and coincides with two exhibitions of work by Lewis Hine, one drawn from ICP's archives and one from the collection of the George Eastman House, on view September 20, 2013–January 12, 2014. This session will explore the nature of a 21st-century archive and current collection management approaches for institutions centered on the image. It will examine how the archive is used by scholars and curators, and how it is made public through museum exhibitions, catalogues, and web presentations.

Research Travel

To expand ICP's international engagement with photographers and critics, the Executive Director and a team of curators will travel to cultural institutions in São Paulo and Istanbul to consider the current status of the image and media in various global contexts. In particular, ICP's curators will seek to understand the uses of and critical responses to photographic and digital media in these key non-Western cities. They will also examine the range of contemporary approaches to the museum and archive in each location, asking questions about each city's unique histories and practices of photography and efforts to preserve cultural patrimony, and how they present and promote new, innovative artwork.

An important result of this research process will be new partnerships with international cultural institutions. It will also provide ICP's curators with the opportunity to conduct targeted research and to plot the future course of the organization's programs in collaboration with international partners.

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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