



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2017
Contact: Katy Dorrah, Mark Arts Executive Director
316-634-2787

Inaugural Photographic Arts National Exhibition to Open March 31

WICHITA, Kan. — Mark Arts will open its inaugural Photographic Arts National Exhibition on Friday, March 31. The exhibition, which is underwritten by the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation, will remain on display through May 14.

The public is invited to an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on March 31, during which Mark Arts will honor its volunteers of the year, capital campaign co-chairs Bonnie Bing Honeyman and Mike Michaelis. Honeyman, a journalist, and Michaelis, vice chairman of Emprise Bank, led the effort to raise \$20 million for Mark Arts' new educational arts center, which will open in January 2018 at the southwest corner of 13th Street and Rock Road.

Photography is an evocative medium that is both emotional and immediate. All genres, capture types and processes were eligible for this inaugural exhibition. Photographers from across the United States will be featured in the exhibition.

The juror for the show, Polly Chandler, will be present at the opening reception and also will conduct a narrative photography workshop on April 1. Chandler, of Austin, Texas, has 16 years of experience as a professional and fine art photographer. Chandler has an MFA in photography from Southern Illinois University and exhibits her work nationally. She has been published in magazines such as *Photo District News*, *American Photo* and *B&W Magazine*.

Chandler selected the following for awards:

FIRST PLACE MARY R. KOCH MEMORIAL AWARD – \$1,000: *Untitled 14* by Morgan Ford Willingham of Emporia

SECOND PLACE – \$750: *Endless* by Dennis Hodges of Sawyer

THIRD PLACE – \$500: *The Butcher* by Thien Doan of Wichita

HONORABLE MENTION – \$100: *Hand and Horse* Donna Pinckley of Little Rock; *The Spotlight* by Steven Powell of Wichita; *Folding* by Jessica Richardson of Oxford, Mississippi; and *Light Drapes Shoulder* by Joshua Sariñana of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Artisan Academy Workshops to be held in conjunction with the Photographic Arts National Exhibition:

NARRATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY: Instructor: Juror Polly Chandler | April 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | \$250

A picture is worth 1,000 words. Delving into the emotional metaphors and allegories present in our personal lives, we will explore how to translate these experiences into a visual narrative in just one frame.

MATTING YOUR ARTWORK: Instructor: Doug Billings | April 22, 5 – 8 p.m.

Enroll on or before April 7: \$55. Enroll after: \$65

Sending your artwork out to be matted can be expensive, so why not learn how to mat artwork yourself? We provide the mat board, backing board and clear plastic wrap. Please bring two works on paper.

ART MARKETING FOR THE ARTIST: Instructor: Melinda Weis | April 29, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Enroll on or before April 15: \$85. Enroll after: \$95.

It's not enough in today's market just to make great art. We have to promote ourselves if we expect to sell our work. A laptop with Wi-Fi capabilities and Adobe Flash installed is required.

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About Mark Arts

The mission of Mark Arts is to be a vibrant arts hub in Wichita and the region by providing opportunities to appreciate and create art in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. It was originally founded in 1920 as the Wichita Art Association, later became The Wichita Center for the Arts and is the area's oldest visual arts organization. The galleries are open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit MarkArtsKS.com or call 316.634.2787.