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The Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester announces the recipients of its 14th annual Focus Awards. The awards will be virtually presented on November 13, 2020 at 7 PM. The event will take place on the Zoom virtual platform. In order to receive the program's Zoom link, reservations are required.

The Focus Awards recognize individuals making critical contributions to the promotion, curation and presentation of photography. The award is not meant for photographers for their art making, but for individuals such as photography educators, historians, gallerists, writers, curators, inventors, conservators and administrators who have elevated the medium of photography.

Focus awardees can be a combination of local, national and international photography trendsetters and innovators. The Focus Awards recognize the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of a select group of enthusiastic, forward thinking individuals and organizations dedicated to the art and business of photography.

This year's recipients include Boston photography gallerist, Robert Klein and Atlanta, Georgia photography gallerist, Arnika Dawkins.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual whose ongoing commitment to photography has created far reaching impact.

The Rising Star Award is given to an emerging force that the photographic community is watching with great enthusiasm.

Robert Klein — Lifetime Achievement Award 2020.  
Arnika Dawkins — Rising Star Award 2020

Award presenters include Stan Trecker, who will present the Lifetime Award to Robert Klein and Dr. Deborah Willis, curator, photographer, author and educator, who will present the Rising Star Award to Arnika Dawkins.

Robert Klein is the owner and director of the Robert Klein Gallery in Boston. The gallery, established in 1980, specializes in the market for fine photographs. Robert Klein was the president of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD) from 1995 – 2008 and a board member of AIPAD from 1985 – 1995. As president of AIPAD, Klein initiated long range plans to position AIPAD into the mainstream of the art market. The Robert Klein Gallery has had an international presence for over 40 years and services an international clientele. Klein received his MBA from Babson College. He attended Hobart College and received his BA from Wilkes University.

Arnika Dawkins is the owner of her eponymous fine art photography gallery established in Atlanta in 2012. The gallerist shows work by talented emerging and mid-career artists with a specialization in showing fine art photography by African Americans and images of people from the African Diaspora. Her passion is connecting collectors to photography that is significant, inspiring, and provocative. As a fine art photographer and avid collector, herself, Arnika is a valuable resource to collectors and artists alike. She is passionate about the medium, having obtained a Master of Arts in Digital Photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

In his career, Stan Trecker served as President of Montserrat College and the Art Institute of Boston (AIB). He also served as Academic Dean of AIB and Lesley University. Upon his retirement in 2014, through to the present, Stan Trecker serves as Dean Emeritus at Lesley University. He is also a photographer.

Deborah Willis, Ph.D, is University Professor and Chair of the Department of Photography & Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and has an affiliated appointment with the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Social & Cultural Analysis, Africana Studies, where she teaches courses on Photography & Imaging, iconicity, and cultural histories visualizing the black body, women, and gender. Her research examines photography's multifaceted histories, visual culture, the photographic history of Slavery and Emancipation; contemporary women photographers and beauty. She received the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Willis is the author of *Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present*; and co-author of *The Black Female Body A Photographic History*; *Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery*; and *Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs* (both titles a NAACP Image Award Winner). Professor Willis's curated exhibitions include: "In Pursuit of Beauty" at Express Newark; "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits" at the International Center of Photography and "Reframing Beauty: Intimate Moments" at Indiana University. Since 2006 she has co-organized thematic conferences exploring imaging the black body in the West such as the conference titled *Black Portraiture[s]* which was held in Johannesburg in 2016. She has appeared and consulted on media projects including documentary films such as *Through A Lens Darkly* and *Question Bridge: Black Males*, a transmedia project, which received the ICP Infinity Award 2015, and *American Photography*, PBS Documentary.

The Griffin Museum created the annual awards in 2006 to recognize individuals who have made critical contributions to the promotion of photography. They are one of the few to recognize the work of those who have been instrumental in building greater awareness of the photographic arts in the general public. The Griffin Museum of Photography is a nonprofit organization dedicated solely to the art of photography. Through our many exhibitions, programs and lectures, we strive to encourage a broader understanding and appreciation of the visual, emotional and social impact of photographic art.

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#### About the Griffin Museum

The Griffin Museum of Photography was founded in 1992 to provide a forum for the exhibition of both historic and contemporary photography. The Museum houses three galleries dedicated solely to the exploration of photographic arts: The Main Gallery, which features rotating exhibits from some of the world's leading photographers; the Atelier Gallery and Griffin Gallery dedicated to showcasing the works of prominent, up-and-coming artists. The Griffin Museum of Photography also maintains 2 additional satellite galleries: Lafayette City Center in Boston Downtown Crossing and the Griffin Gallery at WinCAM.

For more on the Griffin Museum of Photography, visit [www.griffinmuseum.org](http://www.griffinmuseum.org)