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NEWS FROM THE  
DENVER ART MUSEUM

PRESS OFFICE

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[Images available upon request.]

## **Denver Art Museum presents *Other People's Pictures: Selections from the Robert and Kerstin Adams Collection* in August 2022**

*More than 70 works recently gifted to the DAM from renowned photographer's personal collection highlight the pleasure of looking and diverse points of view*



**Denver — May 17, 2022** — The Denver Art Museum (DAM) will present *Other People's Pictures: Selections from the Robert and Kerstin Adams Collection* opening in August 2022. Exploring the reciprocal relationships among artists and their creative exchange of objects, this exhibition also will examine the themes of collecting, the pleasure of looking and how diverse points of view interact to shape perspectives.

Curated by Eric Paddock, Curator of Photography, and Kimberly Roberts, Senior Curatorial Assistant of Photography at the DAM, *Other People's Pictures* will be included in general admission and premieres August 28, 2022, and will run through February 26, 2023, in the 6th floor Photography galleries of the museum's Martin Building. Comprised of more than 70 photographic works selected from a collection donated to the museum in 2018 by Robert and Kerstin Adams to the DAM, this exhibition will be accompanied by a 111-page companion catalogue available in the museum's Shop and online.



"*Other People's Pictures* positions Adams as the conscience of landscape photography for nearly fifty years, insisting that it is not a genre for escapism, but a way to confront both good and bad aspects of human relationships with nature," said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum. "We are so grateful to Robert and Kerstin Adams for this gift of more than 160 images to the DAM so that others could enjoy them and to lend moral support to all photographers who appreciated the artworks."

Through photographic themes of landscape and recreation; people and places; forces of nature; slowing down; and ethics, belief and memory, *Other People's Pictures* invites visitors to contemplate their own connections to the objects, people and places in their own lives and how photographs can convey that attachment.

"Robert and Kerstin began collecting photographs in the 1960s to remind themselves of people, landscapes and photographers they admired. As their circle of friendships grew, artists far and near offered gifts of photographs, sent old postcards or snapshots, and traded pictures—a conversation held as often in visual signs as in words," said Paddock. "Photographers

thrive on a sense of community. Although photography usually is a private endeavor, it is reassuring to know that others see and value one's efforts, and it is important to offer encouragement in return."



"Landscape and Recreation" includes landscape photographs by such well-known photographers as Edward Weston, Lois Conner and Judith Joy Ross together with works by other contemporary artists and snapshots and photo postcards by unknown makers. The overall selection reinforces the idea

that, more than just pretty scenery, “landscape” is a combination of human and natural elements—places where people look at things, relax and play.



The “People” section offers a new perspective, reminding us that human life is as precious and as fragile as any others in nature —or even more so. Although their own work often is associated with environmental issues, Robert and Kerstin Adams collected photographs of people as well as landscapes. Some photographs in this section offer glimpses of others’ light-hearted pleasure. These pictures underline diversity and the many ways to photograph people. The section includes photographs by prominent figures in the history of photography, including Paul Strand, Alfred Stieglitz and Carl Van Vechten.

The “Natural Forces” section is made up of photographs that approach subjects difficult to measure in human time. An ocean that has existed for billions of years or a stand of trees that was buried in the last ice age are fascinating subjects that highlight events that took place thousands of lifetimes ago. The effects of weather are felt in Chuck Forsman’s photograph of a blizzard seen in the headlights of his moving car and Linda Connor’s photograph of a lightning-blasted tree. An anonymous final photograph shows the trunk of a giant sequoia tree that was chopped down, then shipped to Chicago for the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition.

The photographs in “Slowing Down” are reminders of small but vital pleasures, many that are easy to overlook in our busy days and lives. Quiet small-town streets, trees reflected on a slow-moving river or bright light on a cornfield after a rainstorm invite close looking and leisurely contemplation. Photographs of dogs express a mix of humor and affection

The photographs in the section, “Ethics, Belief and Memory,” refer to the kinds of things that guide people’s thoughts and behavior. Images of memorial sites like the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Washington, D.C., are presented alongside private commemorations, such as Linda Gammell’s picture of a late friend’s apple orchard. Photographs by Lois Conner, Robert Adams and Edward Ranney depict religious sites associated with ancient and historical religions, while pictures by Mary Peck, Linda Connor and Akiyoshi Taniguchi touch on elemental powers that lie apart from daily experience. Three portraits of exemplary people, including a Mathew Brady portrait of Abraham Lincoln, point to those who have reshaped thinking on crucial issues of their times. A suite of Judith Joy Ross portraits shows the concern and self-possession of anti-war protesters.

*Other People's Pictures: Selections from the Robert and Kerstin Adams Collection* is organized by the Denver Art Museum. Support is provided by the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by *5280 Magazine* and CBS4.

## **Planning Your Visit**

The most up-to-date information on planning a visit to the Denver Art Museum can be found online under the [Plan Your Visit](#) tab. Use this page to find details on where to park, public transit options and access information.

As a thank you to the voters who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), the museum will continue to offer discounted general admission to Colorado residents, with \$13 tickets for residents and \$18 for non-residents. General admission for museum members is free every day. Youth ages 18 and under, regardless of residency, are free everyday thanks to the museum's Free for Kids program. Free for Kids includes free admission for school and youth group visits. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).

### **COVID-19 Protocols**

The safety of visitors and staff remains a top priority, and the museum is continually updating its COVID-19 safety and security protocols based on advice from the CDC and federal and local guidelines. Current protocols can be found in the "Visit" section of the museum's website. [denverartmuseum.org/visit](http://denverartmuseum.org/visit)

### **About the Denver Art Museum**

The Denver Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit resource that sparks creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art. Its mission is to enrich lives by sparking creative thinking and expression. Its holdings reflect the city and region—and provide invaluable ways for the community to learn about cultures from around the world. Metro residents support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a unique funding source serving hundreds of metro Denver arts, culture and scientific organizations. For museum information, visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org) or call 720-865-5000.

### **Media Resources**

Online Newsroom: [www.denverartmuseum.org/press](http://www.denverartmuseum.org/press)

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### **Image Credits:**

**Image 1:** Mark Ruwedel, *Ilsa in Her Doghouse*, 1988-89. Gelatin silver print photograph; 5-1/4 x 4 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Kerstin and Robert Adams, 2018.527.

**Image 2:** Terri Weifenbach, *While you and John were talking...*, September 9, 1992. Chromogenic color print; 7-1/4 x 4-7/8 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Kerstin and Robert Adams, 2018.555.

**Image 3:** Peter Henry Emerson, *The Old Order and the New*, 1886. Photogravure; 4-5/8 x 9 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Kerstin and Robert Adams, 2018.466.

**Image 4:** Unknown maker, *Family Group with Flowers*, 1920s. Gelatin silver print; 3 x 4 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Kerstin and Robert Adams, 2018.574

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