For Immediate Release

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**The Muscarelle Museum of Art Announces**

**Opening of *Light Works: A Century of Great Photography***

**Masterworks by Famous Photographers**

**from Ansel Adams to Andy Warhol**

Williamsburg, Va. (January 6, 2016) -- The Muscarelle Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening of ***Light Works*: A Century of Great Photography**, a major loan exhibition, on Feb. 6, 2016. Comprising more than fifty of the most memorable images of the past one hundred years, ***Light Works*** brings to the Muscarelle Museum of Art a breathtaking representation of the leading modern and contemporary photographers, including Alfred Stieglitz, Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, Berenice Abbott, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Diane Arbus, Richard Avedon, Cindy Sherman, among other greats.

From Muybridge’s stop-action studies of animal locomotion of 1887, to Andy Warhol’s Polaroid snapshots of Jean-Michel Basquiat’s mother of 1984, and beyond to Andreas Gursky’s panoramic color landscape of *Salerno (1990),* ***Light Works*** reflectively surveys the origins, evolution and unexpected variations of photography during its first full century.

Principal curator for ***Light Works*** is the noted photographer Gary Cialdella, who has drawn primarily from the pioneering collection that Cialdella once directed at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.  The exhibition has been supplemented by more than ten photographs from the permanent collection of the Muscarelle Museum of Art, including works by Alfred Stieglitz, Eliot Porter, Yousuf Karsh, Clyde Butcher, James O’Mara, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, Tania Brassesco and Lazlo Passi Norberto.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to explore a walk-in camera obscura on the back lawn of the Museum.  Spearheaded by [Eliot Dudik](https://www.wm.edu/as/arthistory/faculty/dudik-eliot.php), visiting assistant professor of photography, and made possible through the efforts of a number of William & Mary departments and student volunteers, visitors can walk inside the hexagonal structure to experience the physics of light and the resulting refracted image.  The camera obscura will remain on view for the duration of the exhibition.

 “Photography is such an accessible medium, and *Lights Works* will appeal to a wide variety of audiences,” said Aaron De Groft, director and CEO of the Muscarelle. “Each one has its own particular story to tell, beginning with Julia Margaret Cameron’s albumen print *Aurora: Goddess of Morning* (1873) to Kim Kaufman’s 2000 print *Dispersal*. We are pleased to include in this exhibition important photographic works from our own collection and on loan from friends of the Muscarelle.”

Early photography with its cumbersome box cameras and chemical developing solutions made photography seem more science than art and certainly out of reach of the masses. Modern and contemporary artists blurred the boundaries between photography and painting to the benefit of both. Today, digital photography is phenomenally accessible—it is the most democratic form of expression in modern life. Unlike any other medium, photography in a multitude of forms, spans the disciplines from mass media marketing to documentary and news reporting, to artistic and highly personal pursuits.

*Light Works: A Century of Great Photography* will be on view through April 10, 2016.

**About the Muscarelle Museum of Art**

The Muscarelle Museum of Art is located on the campus of William & Mary at 603 Jamestown Rd in Williamsburg, Va. For more information, call 757-221-2700 or visit muscarelle.org. Follow on Twitter (@Muscarelle), Instagram (@muscarellemuseum) or on Facebook (Muscarelle Museum of Art). Admission is $10 during this exhibition. Admission is free to members, William & Mary students, faculty and staff, as well as children under the age of 12.

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