

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

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Phoenix Art Museum presents a photographic portrait of Route 66 and iconic American highways

Longer Ways to Go navigates photography's role in the formation of an American identity.

PHOENIX (April 11, 2017) – Coming to Phoenix Art Museum on April 15, 2017, *Longer Ways to Go* explores the symbiotic relationship between photography and the folklore of the American highway, including the emblematic Route 66. The exhibition is the most recent collaboration between the Museum and the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography (CCP), and includes more than 80 works from the CCP's collection, along with a selection of digital, modern-day street views of some places featured in the exhibition. *Longer Ways* juxtaposes photographs from different eras, exploring themes related to travel, ideals of small-town life, the national heritage of westward expansion and personal freedom. The exhibition will be on view in the Norton Family Photography Gallery through October 15, 2017.

"This exhibition continues our highly valued collaboration with the Center for Creative Photography," said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. "*Longer Ways to Go* encompasses many features that Phoenix Art Museum strives to achieve in our exhibitions. It strikes a dialogue between history and the present through a subject to which many can relate personally. We are delighted to showcase this exhibition of photographs by well-regarded national and local photographers."

The exhibition is organized around a body of photographs of Route 66 by Kozo Miyoshi, a Japanese photographer and former artist in residence at the Center for Creative Photography. Taken in the 1990s, Miyoshi's photographs of Route 66 are complex, even ambivalent in tone. Rather than re-creating the Route 66 of historical imagination, his photographs show both the areas of 66 that have managed to survive through ingenuity and the once-iconic sites that have fallen into disrepair. Miyoshi's works bear witness to a construction of American identity that is becoming increasingly self-referential; they form a compelling document of the landmark's transition from highway to scenic byway, from America to Americana.

Alongside Miyoshi's photographs, *Longer Ways to Go* features a diverse selection of images of the American road. Chronologically, *Longer Ways to Go* begins with works by Depression-era photographers including Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange and Marion Post Wolcott, and extends to the present day. The exhibition also features work by Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Robert Frank, Gary Winogrand, Lee Friedlander, Danny Lyon, Ed Ruscha, Elaine Mayes, Stephen Shore, Richard Avedon, Richard Misrach, Christopher Churchill and scott b. davis.

Visitors will have a unique chance to see present-day Google street views of places featured in selected works on view. In the process of compiling billions of images, Google incidentally captured "rephotographs" of a handful of pictures in this exhibition. Rephotographs—images resulting from returning to the site of an existing photograph to photograph it again—have been used by both artists and scientists to make change visible. Seen in this context, the photographs on the walls become the "before" pictures in a before-and-after sequence. The contemporary Google street view images shed light on our values by showing what we have altered and what we've chosen to preserve. Guests can use their smartphones to "snap" individual snapcodes or can use in-gallery iPads to enter the featured url, www.phxart.org/streeviews, to find an online gallery of available views.

"*Longer Ways to Go* delves deep into the role photography has played in an important aspect of our national identity," said Andrew Kensett, the Center for Creative Photography's Assistant Curator and the curator of the exhibition. "The road has

a deep significance in American-culture. We're excited to feature this selection of photographs that demonstrate the relationship of reciprocal influence between images of the road and the road itself."

The works will be organized thematically, and will investigate the extent to which American identity has a sometimes fraught, but always significant, relationship with the idea and experience of the open road. *Longer Ways* suggests that not only does how we travel reflect cultural habits of consumption and leisure, it speaks to something deep, essential, and ineffable within American self-construction.

About the Exhibition

Longer Ways to Go is on view from April 15 to October 15, 2017. The exhibition is free for Museum Members and included with general admission. The exhibition is free of charge to the public during free access times: every Wednesday evening from 3pm-9pm, the first Friday of each month from 6-10pm, and the second weekend of each month when general admission is free Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday, noon-5pm. The exhibition is organized by Phoenix Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography. *Longer Ways to Go* is generously sponsored by INFOCUS, the photography support group of Phoenix Art Museum. To request interviews and inquire about the exhibition, contact Margaree.Bigler@phxart.org in Phoenix Art Museum's Marketing and Communications Office, or call 602.257.2105.

Exhibition webpage: <http://bit.ly/LongerWaysToGo>

Exhibition images and image captions: <http://bit.ly/LWTGimages>

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's permanent collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents festivals, a comprehensive film program, live performances and educational programs designed to enlighten, entertain and stimulate visitors of all ages. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

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