

# CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 16, 2011**

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**CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART AND COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN PRESENTS**  
***MADS GAMDRUP: RENUNCIATION***  
**June 29–August 14, 2011**



**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – This summer the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** will showcase *Mads Gamdrup: Renunciation*, a series of 16 large-scale, spectacular color photographs by Danish artist Mads Gamdrup recently acquired by the Corcoran. The exhibition will be on view free of charge on Saturdays through Labor Day as part of the Corcoran’s Free Summer Saturdays promotion.

Exploring the desert as a place of unexpected promise, Gamdrup traveled to Egypt, Morocco, Iceland, and the United States to record empty landscapes that could serve as a “metaphor for renunciation of the unnecessary and the retention of essential hope.” Despite their geographical and geological differences, the deserts in *Renunciation* appear as analogous spaces. With his camera, Gamdrup transforms these sprawling, open landscapes into abstract visual forms that together reveal a universal narrative about moving from place to place. The silent scenes, stretched across the gallery as if they share a horizon line, seem to support philosopher Jean Baudrillard’s notion that “the unfolding of the desert is infinitely close to the timelessness of film.” From the far reaches of the globe, Gamdrup presents a vision of the earth that is sublime, eternal, and ready to be explored anew.

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## FREE SUMMER SATURDAYS

May 28–September 3, 2011

This summer, from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, enjoy exhibitions—including *Mads Gamdrup: Renunciation*—and programming FREE of charge in addition to Gallery tours, select workshops, demonstrations, and performances for all ages at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design. For more information on Free Summer Saturdays, please visit [www.corcoran.org/freesummersaturdays](http://www.corcoran.org/freesummersaturdays).

## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to *Mads Gamdrup: Renunciation* is FREE on Saturdays in accordance with the Corcoran's FREE Summer Saturdays promotion. Admission Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID), children 12 and under, military (with valid ID) and Members enter for free.

## ABOUT THE CORCORAN

**The Corcoran Gallery of Art**, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as America's first dedicated art museum and Washington's first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit [www.corcoran.org](http://www.corcoran.org).



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### Images:

Page one: Mads Gamdrup, *Renunciation 14*, 1998–2002. Color coupler (chromogenic) print on diasec, 35 3/8 x 43 1/4 in. Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Gift of The Heather and Tony Podesta Collection, Washington DC, 2010.019.005n. © Mads Gamdrup and Nils Staerk.

Page one: Mads Gamdrup, *Renunciation 16*, 1998–2002. Color coupler (chromogenic) print on diasec, 35 3/8 x 43 1/4 in. Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Gift of The Heather and Tony Podesta Collection, Washington DC, 2010.019.005p. © Mads Gamdrup and Nils Staerk.

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