

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORCORAN ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FOR *ALEX PRAGER: FACE IN THE CROWD*
Exhibition on view November 23, 2013–March 9, 2014



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Beginning this November, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** will present a series of cultural programs inspired by *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd*, including a film series curated by the artist. For more, visit www.corcoran.org/programs.

Corcoran Contemporaries *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd* Tour and Reception

Wednesday, November 20; 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Free; Members only

Contemporaries' members can register to attend an intimate tour with artist Alex Prager of her new exhibition, *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd*. Afterwards, enjoy a reception and mingle with other members.

Corcoran Uncorked – Members Only Dinner at Muse Café

Wednesday, November 20, 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m.

\$35; Members only

Inspired by the exhibition *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd*, Chef Todd Gray creates a special Los Angeles-themed menu, which pairs fresh ingredients with a distinct L.A. flair and Californian wines.

Alex Prager Selects Film Series

In her first solo museum exhibition, *A Face in the Crowd*, Alex Prager draws inspiration from classic Hollywood movies, fashion advertising, and icons of documentary photography. The artist selected a series of films that have inspired and influenced her work:

- more -

The Red Shoes

Wednesday, December 4; 7 p.m.

Members FREE, Public \$5; Gallery admission included

Registration available at <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/alex-prager-selects-film-series>

In one of the most popular movies ever made about ballet, a young ballerina finds herself entrapped in a real-life rendition of Hans Christian Andersen's tragic fairy tale, *The Red Shoes*. In this tale of passion, betrayal, and art, dancer Victoria Page (Moira Shearer) is torn between her loyalty to a ballet impresario (Anton Walbrook) and her love for a talented composer (Marium Goring).

The Night of the Hunter

Wednesday, January 22; 7 p.m.

Members FREE, Public \$5; Gallery admission included

Registration available at <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/alex-prager-selects-film-series>

The Night of the Hunter tells the story of a psychopathic preacher (Robert Mitchum) in pursuit of a small fortune. His search takes him to the home of a naïve widow (Shelley Winters) whose two small children are the only ones who know where their real father hid \$10,000 he had stolen years before. Hailed as one of the best films in all of American cinema, evil confronts innocence in this suspense-packed thriller.

Modern Times

Wednesday, March 4; 7 p.m.

Members FREE, Public \$5; Gallery admission included

Registration available at <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/alex-prager-selects-film-series>

Praised as one of Charlie Chaplin's finest portrayals of his iconic Little Tramp character, *Modern Times* traces one man's struggles to survive in the modern, industrialized world. In one of his last silent films, Chaplin stars as a factory worker who finds himself caught between the cogs of industrialized society and the temptations of a gamine orphan (Paulette Goddard).

Hitchcock Evening

Wednesday, February 19; 5 p.m.

Members FREE, Public \$12

More information available at <http://www.corcoran.org/corcoran-uncorked>

Join us for a night of suspense, Hollywood glamour, and Alfred Hitchcock classics! Watch Hitchcock's spine-tingling masterpieces *The Birds* and *Rear Window* on the Corcoran's big screen; try your hand at screen printing and create your own vintage movie poster; tour the exhibition *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd* and learn how the glamorous Hollywood heroines of classic 50s and 60s cinema influenced her work. Compete against other film buffs in a round of movie trivia, and enjoy popcorn tastings throughout the night at Muse Café.

The Rise of America's Surveillance State

Wednesday, January 8; 7 p.m.

Members \$8, Public \$10; Gallery admission included

Registration available at <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/the-rise-of-americas-surveillance-state>

Featuring elaborately staged crowd-scene images shot from seemingly impossible vantage points, the artist's latest series in the exhibition *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd* explores the themes of private vs. public space, surveillance, and personal safety. On this evening, Shane Harris, author of the 2010 book *The Watchers: The Rise of American's Surveillance State*, expands on these themes. He discusses how a small group of government officials built the vast national security apparatus that is at the center of our present debate over surveillance and privacy. Harris has been writing about intelligence and national security issues for more than a decade. He is currently a senior writer at Foreign Policy magazine and a fellow at the New America Foundation. His recent coverage has focused on the National Security Agency and its global surveillance operations.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

As Prager's most ambitious and complex series to date, *Face in the Crowd* features large-scale photographs of people

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assembled in congested public spaces such as an airport terminal, lobby, beach, and movie theater. Blurring the line between fiction and reality, Prager directed the actions of hundreds of actors in costume on specially constructed sets. Densely detailed and shot from seemingly impossible vantage points, these scenes enact psychological narratives of private and public revelation, repulsion, fear, and the desire for basic human interaction and personal safety. The stories of various characters within these crowds culminate in a new film featuring actress Elizabeth Banks. Alongside this new work, the Corcoran's exhibition will feature a selection of earlier photographers as well as her videos *Despair* (2010), *La Petite Mort* (2012), and *Sunday* (2012). Visit <http://www.corcoran.org/exhibitions/alex-prager>.

Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd is presented by

BOTTEGA VENETA

Additional support for the exhibition provided by The Mapplethorpe Foundation, Inc. and Nion McEvoy.

The official media sponsor is



VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd* is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID). Free: children 12 and under, active duty military (with ID), Corcoran Members.

MEMBERSHIP

Corcoran Gallery of Art membership offers special access to the Corcoran's renowned collection, temporary exhibitions, lectures, films, concerts, and an array of social events. Members also receive valuable discounts at the Corcoran Shop, Todd Gray's Muse at the Corcoran, and the Corcoran College of Art + Design. Corcoran Members may visit *Alex Prager: Face in the Crowd* an unlimited number of times for free. For more information, contact the Membership office at (202) 639-1753, membership@corcoran.org or online at www.corcoran.org/membership.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, 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. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The college is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Image: Page one: Alex Prager, *Rachel and Friends*, 2009. Archival pigment print, 36 x 46.5 inches. Courtesy of the artist, Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York and M+B Gallery, Los Angeles.

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