



CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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**CORCORAN ANNOUNCES PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING DURING FOTOWEEK
DC 2012 FESTIVAL**



Ivan Sigal, Murghab, Tajikistan, 2003. Gelatin silver print. Image courtesy of the artist. © Ivan Sigal.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** continues its support of the annual FotoWeek festival (November 9-18, 2012), by presenting a series of exciting events and exhibitions focused on photographic arts beginning in November.

On November 10, the Corcoran will be the first East Coast venue to show artist Taryn Simon’s latest project, *Taryn Simon: A Living Man Declared Dead and Other Chapters I-XVIII*, in its entirety. Dubbed “the hottest property in art photography” by one critic, Simon produced the work over a four-year period (2008–11), during which she traveled around the world researching and recording the living ascendants and descendants of a single individual, or “bloodlines,” and their related stories. “In each of the 18 chapters,” the artist has explained, “you see the external forces of territory, governance, power, and religion, colliding with the internal forces of



psychological and physical inheritance.” The subjects Simon documents include feuding families in Brazil, victims of genocide in Bosnia, the body double of Saddam Hussein's son Uday, and the so-called living dead in India. Simon's detailed archive of images and text is systematically organized in grids to reveal social changes driven by science, culture, and chance. This collection is at once cohesive and arbitrary, mapping the relationships among order, chaos, genetics, and other components of fate.

On November 3, the Corcoran will debut the work of American photographer and Global Voices executive director Ivan Sigal. *Ivan Sigal: White Road*, comprising approximately 100 photographs made in Central Asia between 1998 and 2005, addresses what was left behind when the Soviet Union's ideological superstructure was dismantled, eliminating the grand narrative that once imposed meaning on people's lives. A two-volume book, published by Steidl, will be published in tandem with the exhibition.

The Corcoran's newly launched MA in New Media Photojournalism further strengthens the Corcoran's role as a major center for collecting, displaying, and studying photography and photojournalism. The first of its kind and centered in the nation's capital, the program draws on a vibrant community of media outlets and renowned photojournalists who make Washington, D.C. their home. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.corcoran.edu/degree-programs/graduate/ma-new-media-photojournalism>.

The Corcoran is proud to join in this week-long celebration of the power and range of the photographic medium along with other D.C. galleries, museums, embassies and art spaces. For a full list of Corcoran FotoWeekDC program, visit the [Corcoran's FotoWeek page](#).

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS:

Taryn Simon: A Living Man Declared Dead and Other Chapters I-XVIII

November 10–February 24, 2013

The Corcoran presents the first complete East Coast exhibition of *Taryn Simon: A Living Man Declared Dead and Other Chapters I–XVIII*, a photographic project by the artist Taryn Simon (American, b. 1975). Simon produced the work over a four-year period (2008–11), during which she traveled around the world researching and recording the living ascendants and descendants of a single individual, or “bloodlines,” and their related stories.

Exhibition url: <http://www.corcoran.org/exhibitions/simon>

Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 for seniors (62+), students (with valid ID), children 12 and under. Active duty military and Corcoran Members enter for free.

Ivan Sigal: White Road

November 3, 2012–January 27, 2013

From 1998 through 2005, American photographer Ivan Sigal traveled in Central Asia, using his camera to record the unsettled lives of Eurasians in provincial towns and cities. Using images and text, this unconventional narrative reveals a diverse population adapting in extraordinary times.

Exhibition url: <http://www.corcoran.org/exhibitions/ivan-sigal-white-road>

Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 for seniors (62+), students (with valid ID), children 12 and under. Active duty military and Corcoran Members enter for free.

This is Not a Photo

November 7, 2012–November 18, 2012 in Gallery 31

This exhibit previews the work of the inaugural class of New Media Photojournalism at the Corcoran. The work at once embraces and challenges the roles of the visual news media today. Gallery 31 is the Corcoran's dedicated exhibition space for the Corcoran College of Art + Design and is free and open to the public all museum hours.

Admission: Free

Transparency

November 21, 2012–November 30, 2012 in Gallery 31

Transparency is an exhibition of Corcoran College of Art + Design student work inspired by the Taryn Simon's rigorous research methods and the questions the artist asks about contemporary social issues. Gallery 31 is the Corcoran's dedicated exhibition space for the Corcoran College of Art + Design and is free and open to the public all museum hours.

Admission: Free

PHOTO-RELATED LECTURES AND TALKS:

Newman Distinguished Visiting Artist Lecturer in Photography: Taryn Simon

Thursday, November 8; 7 p.m.

Website: https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/newman_lecture

Admission: Free; Pre-registration required.

Artist's Talk with Ivan Sigal

Monday, November 12; 7 p.m.

Website: https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/ivan_sigal

Admission: \$12 public; \$10 Corcoran members; \$6 full-time student

Transforming Society through Photos: The Role of Free and Independent Photojournalism

Wednesday, November 14; 7 p.m.

To complement the exhibition *101 Photos for Press Freedom*, on view at FotoWeek Central, Magnum photographers Larry Towell and Peter van Agtmael examine the role of free and independent photojournalism in society.

Website: https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/transforming_society_through_photos

Admission: \$12 public; \$10 Corcoran members; \$6 full-time students

PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN

The Corcoran photography and photojournalism BFA, and the new MA in New Media Photojournalism, are among the most innovative in the country, offering an ideal training ground for a new generation of creative visual reporters, documentarians and visual artists. Faculty includes working photographers from *The Washington Post* and other news media, White House photography staff, and picture editors from *National Geographic*, while intern programs offer placement in these and other outlets. Students in the Corcoran's Fine Art Photography BFA program work with

practicing artists while exploring work in both traditional darkrooms and cutting-edge digital photography and video labs. For more information on these and other educational opportunities at the Corcoran College of Art + Design, visit www.corcoran.edu.

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.



ABOUT FOTOWEEK DC

FotoWeek DC was founded in 2008 and has evolved from a city-centric photography festival to a multi-season tribute to photography in all its forms. The festival celebrates the transformative power of photography through the exhibition of inspiring and provocative images, diverse programming, and collaboration with the local and international community. For more information and programming, visit www.fotoweekdc.org.

Images:

Page one: Ivan Sigal, *Murghab, Tajikistan*, 2003. Gelatin silver print. Image courtesy of the artist. (c) Ivan Sigal.

Page two: Artist Taryn Simon, photo courtesy Taryn Simon.

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