

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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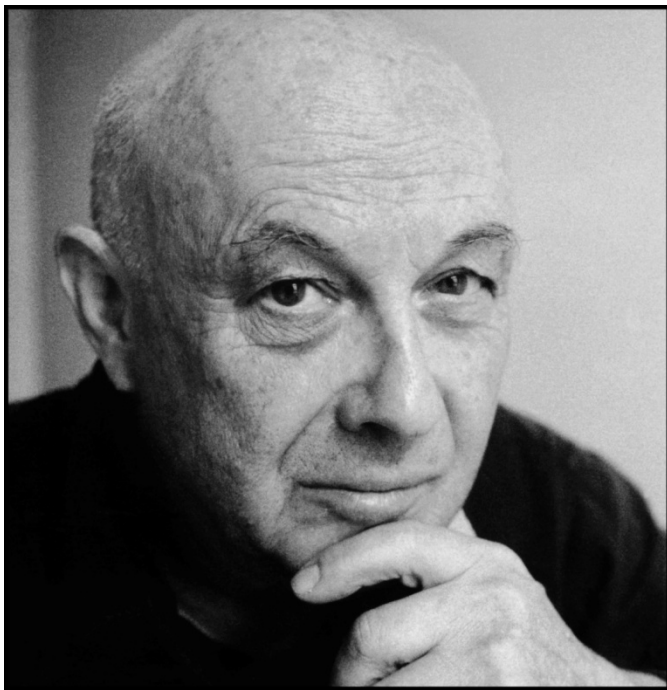
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**PHOTOGRAPHER BRUCE DAVIDSON HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT, SPECIAL SPEAKER AT
CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN 2011 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**



WASHINGTON, D.C. – President of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design Fred Bollerer and Provost and Chief Academic Officer Catherine Armour announced today that the Corcoran will present photographer Bruce Davidson with an Honorary Degree at the 2011 Corcoran College of Art + Design commencement ceremony. Davidson, one of the most influential American photographers of the last half century, will accept an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Fine Arts, and serve as special speaker at Commencement on **May 21, 2011** at 4:30 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

“The Corcoran is honored to have such an incredible talent join us for Commencement this year,” said Armour. “We look forward to celebrating his achievements and to hearing his inspirational words of wisdom for the 2011 class.”

“Bruce Davidson’s career in photography is remarkable not only for its length of more than half a century but also - and more to the point - for the consistent quality and innovation of his work,” said Andy Grundberg, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and previous chair of photography. “My generation grew up with his pictures imbedded in our brains: the Brooklyn teen-agers in the late 1950s, the civil-rights movement, the East 100th Street project in the late 1960s, New York City subways. Even in his recent urban landscape photographs, Davidson has excelled at putting his sympathetic finger on the pulse of our times.”

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, Bruce Davidson has been taking photographs since the young age of ten. After attending both the Rochester Institute of Technology and Yale University, Davidson met Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris while completing military service and became a member of Cartier-Bresson's famed Magnum Agency in 1958. Davidson has worked as a photographer for *LIFE* Magazine and has had one-man exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, the Walker Art Center, the International Center of Photography, the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, the Aperture Foundation, and the Foundation Cartier-Bresson in Paris.

Davidson has received a number of grants and awards, including two grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lucie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Photography in 2004, and the Gold Medal Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Arts Club in 2007. In addition to his extensive exhibition features, Davidson's photographs have appeared in numerous publications and his prints have been acquired by many major museums worldwide. He has also directed three films and has been featured in a variety of books, recently releasing *Outside Inside*, a three volume work spanning over fifty years of work. Davidson currently continues to lecture, conduct workshops and produce astounding images.

Annually, the Corcoran College of Art + Design honors an artist who has contributed significantly to the advancement of his or her discipline and to the collective body of related knowledge in the visual arts. Past recipients of this prestigious award include James Rosenquist, artist (2010), Tim Gunn, fashion expert (2009), Annie Leibovitz, photographer (2008), Phyllis Lambert, architect (2007), Sally Mann, photographer (2006), and Karim Rashid, designer (2005).

A reception immediately following the ceremony will be held in the Atrium of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. *NEXT at the Corcoran: BFA Class of 2011* will be on view during the reception.

ABOUT *NEXT AT THE CORCORAN*

The Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design presents *NEXT at the Corcoran: BFA Class of 2011*, a dynamic, interactive, and innovative exhibition featuring the thesis work of the senior students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program at the Corcoran. With emphasis on the process that students undergo to create their final thesis projects, the exhibition features the work of each senior in design, fine art, and photography. Visitors to *NEXT* have the unique opportunity to observe thesis critiques—discussions between the artists and their peers and instructors—and gain insights into the artists' intentions. Alongside the Corcoran's contemporary program, *NOW at the Corcoran*, the student exhibition, *NEXT at the Corcoran*, celebrates the accomplishments of the graduating seniors and confirms the Corcoran's commitment to showcasing emerging artists. For more than 120 years, the Corcoran has educated and trained students – the next generation of America's artists – while displaying the most important works of the time.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as 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. Founded in 1890, the Corcoran College of Art + Design is 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.

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