

# CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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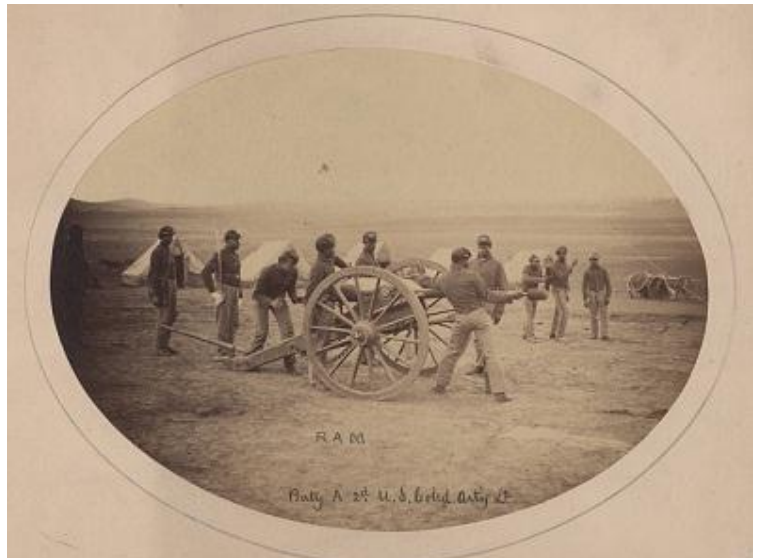
**CORCORAN PRESENTS *SHADOWS OF HISTORY: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CIVIL WAR*  
*FROM THE COLLECTION OF JULIA J. NORRELL*  
February 4–May 20, 2012**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – This winter, the Corcoran Gallery of Art presents *Shadows of History: Photographs of the Civil War from the Collection of Julia J. Norrell* (February 4–May 20), an exhibition that explores how photography was used to document the Civil War. The exhibition’s 36 works include early tintype, ambrotype, and cartes-de-visite portraits, rare images of African American regiments, and an installation by contemporary artist Whitfield Lovell.

*Shadows of History* is organized by Philip Brookman, Chief Curator and Head of Research at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and Kaitlin Booher, assistant curator of photography and media arts, and drawn primarily from the collection of Washington collector Julia “Judy” Norrell.

The American Civil War, one of the first conflicts to be extensively documented by photography, for the first time brought home powerful images of human devastation and the destructive impact of war. The photographs in

*Shadows of History* highlight important themes and subject matter in Civil War photography, including the impact of war on the landscape and on people, by some of the most prominent photographers of the day. Images by George Barnard, Issac H. Bonsall, Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, James F. Gibson, Frederick F. Gutekunst, Timothy H. O’Sullivan, Andrew J. Russell, D. B. Woodbury, and others, are included. One highlight of the show is an unusual sequence depicting African American soldiers drilling by an unknown photographer.



Photographer unknown, “Ram”, *Bat’y ‘A’ 2d U.S. Colrd Arty’y, Lt.*, 1865. Albumen silver print, 5 ¼ x 7 ¼ inches. Collection of Julia J. Norrell.

“Photography continues to shape our understanding of the Civil War,” said Brookman. “Judy’s collection, informed by her complicated feelings about the South and its history, reminds us of old wounds, and of those that remain to be healed.”

An installation by American artist Whitfield Lovell is included in the exhibition. Created in 2001, *Visitation: The Richmond Project: Battleground*, features a life-size portrait of an African American soldier drawn on wooden planks, with objects evoking the Civil War.

Concurrent to *Shadows of History*, the Corcoran will open *Tim Hetherington: Sleeping Soldiers* (February 4–May 20), a group of photographs and video depicting American soldiers in northeastern Afghanistan. For the three-screen video installation *Sleeping Soldiers* (2010), Hetherington superimposed footage of conflict over still images of soldiers sleeping, creating a nightmarish narrative that runs on a continuous loop. Opening on the heels of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, *Shadows of History* and *Tim Hetherington: Sleeping Soldiers* explore the ways in which war is documented, remembered, and lived.

## **ABOUT THE CORCORAN**

**The Corcoran Gallery of Art**, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America’s first dedicated art museum and today is Washington’s 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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