



PHOTO BY: Al Rendon



For Immediate Release:

FOTOFEST ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN EVANS AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOUSTON, TEXAS - JANUARY 28, 2014 - The Board of Directors and Founders of FotoFest are **pleased to announce the appointment of Steven Evans as the organization's new executive director.** Mr. Evans will assume his new post in early February 2014. Previously he served as **Executive Director of the Linda Pace Foundation** in San Antonio and as **Managing Director of Dia Beacon**, the museum of Dia Art Foundation's extensive collection in the Hudson Valley, New York.

Mr. Evans will lead FotoFest into its fourth decade of producing its renowned Biennial of Photography and Photo-related art, inter-Biennial exhibition projects, art programs for artists and the general public, and FotoFest's popular in-school student education program. He will build on FotoFest's commitments to create professional opportunities for artists around the globe and expand the development of new learning skills with students.

He will work closely with FotoFest founders Wendy Watriss and Frederick Baldwin and the FotoFest Board of Directors to strategically position FotoFest's programs and organization for the future.

"As founders, Fred Baldwin and I have worked closely with all of FotoFest's Board of Directors and staff for over three years to make a smooth and productive transition process for FotoFest. Many individuals, foundations, corporations and public agencies have made it possible for FotoFest to exist and expand over the past 28 years as an international organization in Houston," says co-founder Wendy Watriss. **"FotoFest is a trend-setting organization; it deserves to continue and grow. We strongly believe that Steven Evans will accomplish this."**

FotoFest Board President Greg Spier commented, "Since its inception in 1986, FotoFest has earned a reputation as a leading venue for the presentation and discussion of photography, serving as a platform for new art and new ideas. Steven Evans has a track record of stimulating high quality programming and effective strategic thinking. He has worked with a dynamic range of international artists, writers and curators. In addition to curatorial vision and leadership, he brings considerable expertise in organizational development. I am delighted that Steven will be joining us and am certain that he will build on the tremendous success that Wendy and Fred have achieved."

Regarding his appointment, Evans stated, “I am thrilled to be joining FotoFest. I am inspired by its exciting history, broad reach, and longstanding dedication to bringing new work to light. Throughout the years, the Biennial remains true to its original spirit of discovery while continually embracing new ideas from around the world.

“FotoFest’s commitment to Houston as well as regional and global programming is essential. I am especially eager to work with founders Fred Baldwin and Wendy Watriss, the Board of Directors and staff to build on FotoFest’s history of fostering the best in photography and related media while advancing meaningful public engagement. Connecting with the FotoFest’s collaborators and continuing the vibrant programs and partnerships is also a priority.”

FotoFest founders will continue to guide the 2014 Biennial on contemporary Arab photography and media-related art. They will continue to work on special projects and international initiatives with Steven Evans.

More information on FotoFest and the FotoFest 2014 Biennial may be found on the FotoFest website at www.fotofest.org.

For more information or visuals:

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STEVEN EVANS

Born in Key West, Florida, Evans studied photography at the Atlanta College of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating with a B.F.A. in 1987. He earned his M.F.A from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1989. He began his organizational career at Dia Art Foundation in 1990 in visitor services; became Operations Deputy in 1993, and in 2000 began work on the Dia Beacon project, eventually becoming Managing Director. At Linda Pace Foundation, Evans worked in philanthropy, planning, and programming, organizing projects with artists Isaac Julien and Shazia Sikander, while commissioning a photographic project from Adam Schrieber and initiating a video commission from artist duo Hubbard / Birchler.

Following his work at the Linda Pace Foundation, Evans was interim director for San Antonio’s Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum. Most recently, he organized an exhibition of photographic work by the artist Chris Sauter. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment of Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, and the Dutchess County Arts Council. Throughout his career, Evans has worked successfully with arts organizations, artists, and civic associations. In addition, Evans is an artist who works in a range of media, including photography, and has participated in solo and group exhibitions in New York City, Los Angeles, Paris, Berlin and elsewhere.

FOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL

FotoFest created the first international Biennial of Photography and Photo-related Art in the United States. FotoFest is an international non-profit photographic arts and education organization based in Houston, Texas.

FotoFest’s purpose is to promote the exchange of art and ideas through international programs and the presentation of photographic art. Its programs work globally and locally, bringing together an international vision of art and cross-cultural exchange with a commitment to community involvement and the enrichment of Houston’s cultural resources.

In addition to its internationally known Biennial, FotoFest sponsors year-round arts and education programs with its Inter-Biennial exhibitions, international exchange programs, and publications. In grades 3-12, FotoFest operates the year-round classroom education program, Literacy Through Photography, using photography to strengthen writing skills, visual literacy, and cognitive learning.

With more than a 100 exhibitions and events, FotoFest will launch its 15th consecutive biennial of photography and photo-related art, March 15 to April 27, 2014 in Houston, Texas. The centerpiece of the 2014 Biennial is a newly created exhibition of Arab video, photography, and mixed media art — **VIEW FROM INSIDE** — presenting a broad array of programs on Arab art, society and politics.