

International Photography Hall of Fame Brings Prestigious Global Awards Celebration to Indianapolis

Internationally Renowned Photographers, Historic Exhibition, and Celebrity Photographer Brian Ach to Headline Major Arts Event at Indy Art Center

INDIANAPOLIS , IN, UNITED STATES, June 8, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- This fall, Indianapolis will become an international destination for photography as the [International Photography Hall of Fame \(IPHF\)](#), in partnership with the [Indy Art Center](#), presents the 2026 International Photography Hall of Fame Awards and Exhibition.

On Saturday, October 3, collectors, artists, curators, photographers and enthusiasts will gather in Indianapolis

for an evening celebrating some of the most influential figures in the history of photography. The prestigious annual event honors artists, curators, and innovators whose work has shaped photography's artistic, documentary, and cultural legacy across generations.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the weekend will feature a rare public exhibition of iconic prints from the International Photography Hall of Fame collection at the Indy Art Center. Spanning generations of photographic history and artistic practice, the exhibition will give Indianapolis audiences a unique opportunity to experience works connected to some of the medium's most celebrated artists and visionaries.

The 2026 honorees represent a remarkable cross-section of visionaries whose work has shaped how we see the world.

Hall of Fame Inductees:



2026 Hall of Fame Award Ceremony

International Photography Hall of Fame

The 2026 International Photography Hall of Fame class including Inductees Lee Friedlander, Don McCullin, the late Garry Winogrand, and Sandra Phillips as well as special Awardees Sarah Greenough, Fazal Sheikh, and Joel-Peter Witkin.

 LEE FRIEDLANDER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE	 SIR DON MCCULLIN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE	 SANDRA PHILLIPS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE	 GARRY WINOGRAND HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE
 SARAH GREENOUGH LEADERSHIP AWARD	 FAZAL SHEIKH VISIONARY AWARD	 JOEL-PETER WITKIN VISIONARY AWARD	

Lee Friedlander: A pioneer of American street photography, Friedlander transformed the everyday into layered, self-reflective compositions that redefined visual storytelling.

Sandra Phillips: A pioneering curator at SFMOMA, Phillips transformed the presentation and understanding of photography through influential exhibitions and museum leadership.

Don McCullin: Renowned for his unflinching war photography, McCullin's work captures the human cost of conflict with rare depth and compassion.

Garry Winogrand (posthumous): Winogrand's dynamic images of postwar America reshaped street photography with their energy, immediacy, and complexity.

IPHF Special Awards:

Sarah Greenough (Leadership Award): A distinguished curator at the National Gallery of Art, Greenough advanced the study of photography through landmark exhibitions and scholarship.

Fazal Sheikh (Visionary Award): Sheikh's powerful portraits and narratives bring visibility to displaced communities, merging art with advocacy.

Joel-Peter Witkin (Visionary Award): Witkin's meticulously staged works challenge conventions of beauty and provoke dialogue through striking, symbolic imagery.

The evening will feature a keynote presentation by photographer Brian Ach. Known for his portraits of musicians, actors, artists, and other cultural figures, Ach's work has appeared in publications including Rolling Stone, The New York Times, TIME, and GQ. He has also photographed numerous artists, including Prince and Journey, during concert tours and throughout their careers.

In addition, the Hall of Fame is honored to welcome back returning 2025 Hall of Fame inductee Adger Cowans, whose groundbreaking career spans photography and painting. One of the first African American film still photographers in Hollywood, Cowans worked on more than thirty film productions and collaborated with directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, Sidney Lumet, and Spike Lee. A former colleague of Gordon Parks at LIFE magazine, Cowans has long used his work to explore themes of identity, history, and social justice, and remains an influential voice in the evolution of photographic practice.

In conjunction with the awards weekend, the Indy Art Center will present a special exhibition of photographs from the International Photography Hall of Fame's permanent collection. Featuring iconic images by some of photography's most influential artists, the exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view these historic works in person and explore the rich history of the medium.

International Photography Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony

WHEN: Saturday, October 3, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Indy Art Center, 820 E. 67th St., Indianapolis, IN

TICKETS: \$100

LEARN MORE: <https://www.iphf.org/2026-ceremony>

Exhibition Dates

WHEN: September 28 - December 13, 2026

WHERE: Indy Art Center, 820 E. 67th St., Indianapolis, IN

TICKETS: Free and open to the public

About the International Photography Hall of Fame

For more than 60 years, the International Photography Hall of Fame has celebrated the inventors, artists, and visionaries who have shaped the photographic arts. With a permanent collection of over 7,000 works by more than 500 artists, the St. Louis–based organization preserves the medium’s legacy while inspiring future generations of photographers and collectors.

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