

PRESS RELEASE

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FAMILY IN THE 21ST CENTURY IS THE FOCUS OF *THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT*, ON VIEW AT THE ADDISON GALLERY THIS FALL

Andover, Massachusetts (May 28, 2013) – This fall, the Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, will present *the kids are all right*, an exhibition featuring photography and video created in the last ten years by 38 established and emerging artists who reveal, with sensitive yet radical openness, the notion of family in the 21st century. Cumulatively, the artists in *the kids are all right* demonstrate what most of us already know, that family is a complicated entanglement of people. However, unlike previous generations, young adults today are not disillusioned by the failed promise of what “family” is supposed to be. In fact, for them, an intact, white, middle class, nuclear family is, more often than not, an exception to the rule rather than the rule itself. The family units depicted in this exhibition are accepted as is, in whatever form they come—natural or found. The artists take no critical position, rather they affirm with poignancy and humor the ever-shifting notion of the contemporary family.

Brian Allen, the Addison’s Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director, notes “The Addison’s broad repertoire has always embraced exhibitions that explore complicated and often charged societal issues, and *the kids are all right* is part of that tradition. This exhibition will serve as a springboard for lively conversation at many levels, from critical discourse about new directions in photography to discussions about the way that today’s family is defined.”

Allison Kemmerer, the Addison’s Mead Curator of Photography and Curator of Contemporary Art, adds “As curator Alison Ferris points out in her catalogue essay, like the traditional idea of family, photography too has changed dramatically over recent years. Now that nearly everyone carries a digital camera via their cell phone, daily lives and human relationships are being extensively documented and immediately disseminated with little or no editing via email, Facebook, and YouTube. The manner in which photography is now created and understood substantially contributes to the frankness and honesty of the images included in *the kids are all right*.”

The photographers in *the kids are all right* actively solicit collaboration from their subjects when making their work, most often by involving them in the creation of each of the photographed scenarios. Gaining their subjects' trust, they simultaneously and self-consciously reveal the subjectivity of the process, often including themselves in the pictures or adding narratives in the form of writing or video. The platform of open-mindedness, combined with vibrant collaboration, results in intimate and illuminating portraits of families that reject irony and judgment in favor of affirmation and acceptance.

Artists in the exhibition include: Janine Antoni, Matt Austin, Guy Ben-Ner, Melonie Bennett, Nina Berman, David Bush, Patty Chang, Goseong Choi, Yolanda Del Amo, Todd Deutsch, Jenny Drumgoole, Rafael Perez Evans, Martha Fleming-Ives, Lucas Foglia, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Tiereny Gearon, Aron Gent, Steve Giovinco, David Hilliard, Justin Kirchoff, Justine Kurland, Deana Lawson, Jocelyn Lee, Carrie Levy, Lisa Lindvay, Julie Mack, Ryan McGinley, Andrea Modica, Sanitago Mostyn, Catherine Opie, Josh Quigley, Robert Rainey, Justine Reyes, Kathleen Robbins, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Betsy Schneider, Angela Strassheim, Chris Verene, and Rona Yefman.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color exhibition catalogue featuring images from each artist and with an essay by exhibition curator Alison Ferris.

the kids are all right was organized by the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin and made possible through grants from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation, a foundation that prefers anonymity, BMO Harris Bank, and the Frederic C. Kohler Charitable Trust. This project is also funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Contributions from the John Michael Kohler Arts Center's loyal corporate, foundation, and individual donors have also been vital.

The Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00–5:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Mondays, national holidays, December 24, and the month of August. Admission to all exhibitions and events is free. The Addison Gallery also offers free education programs for teachers and groups. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org

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About the Addison Gallery of American Art

Devoted exclusively to American art, the mission of the Addison Gallery of American Art is to acquire, preserve, interpret, and exhibit works of art for the education and enjoyment of all. Opened in 1931, the Gallery has one of the most important collections of American art in the country that includes more

than 17,000 works by prominent American artists such as George Bellows, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Jackson Pollock, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, and many more. The Addison Gallery, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at **www.addisongallery.org**.