

# The Big Picture

SNAP! ORLANDO'S YOU ARE HERE, CONNECT THE DOTS ...  
TELLS YOU WHERE YOU ARE. GET THE PICTURE?

BY G.K. SHARMAN



SEAN BLACK

THOM VIERA, Sean Black, 2013

**P**hotos are everywhere these days. We whip out our smart phones to post pictures of everything from our cats to our kids, but when was the last time you really looked at a photo? When was the last time you studied an image and let it speak to you about who you are and how you relate to others? Snap! Orlando's latest project, a photography festival titled *You Are Here, Connect the Dots*, brings those questions and more into focus.

"*You Are Here* is a geographic presence," says Snap! Orlando Founder Patrick Kahn, "and also a social consciousness presence. It's how you're interacting and making your presence relevant in the environment you're in. It's an exploration of how individuals shape

and build our shared environments."

Snap! has held annual events before, largely festivals geared toward photographers and held in warehouse spaces for three or four days. "More or less like a pop-up exhibition," explains Kahn. But the nonprofit foundation

dedicated to celebrating master photographers, cultivating up-and-comers and promoting the appreciation of photography got its own permanent home last year. Though the Snap! Space gallery on Colonial Drive is smaller than a warehouse, it allows the



COURTESY KIWII ARTS GROUP

**HOMAGE TO WARHOL'S FLOWERS, William John Kennedy**

organization to change out exhibits as often as every couple of months.

After not holding a festival last year, Kahn is enthusiastically taking a wide-angle approach for 2015. The event will be longer—the entire month of May—more expansive and much more inclusive than ever before.

### Diversification

Exhibitions, lectures, workshops, film screenings and other happenings will take place almost every day and in about two dozen locations around Central Florida, and even as far afield as Melbourne, Tampa and Miami.



COURTESY CITYARTS FACTORY



DEBI SPRINGER/FOOD FOR THE POOR

**DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER Hilda Perez shoots for international relief organization Food for the Poor.**

This year, participants will be encouraged to “connect the dots,” geographically speaking, Kahn says, and link the photo-themed events to Orlando’s arts, culture and especially foodie communities. “Food for the mind,” he calls it, noting that the city’s cultural explosion is unfolding much like the local food movement. “You can really feel the growth (of the arts),” says the former Los Angeles lensman. “The city is really starting to take shape.”

Many of the activities will include food or beverages, and event hosts include the East End Market and the Falcon Bar & Gallery.

Other partners include the Orlando Museum of Art and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum (CFAM), as well as Gallery at Avalon Island and CityArts Factory. Canvs, a co-working space in downtown Orlando, is also on the list, as are the Enzian, Crealdé School of Art and The Alford Inn.

*You Are Here* opens on May 1 with a VIP/sponsor reception at Snap! Space, while a public reception is set for May 2. The gallery’s featured exhibition there, *Life in Real Time*, showcases documentary and street photographer Christopher Makos; William John Kennedy, who photographed Andy



SCOTT COOK

**ON MAY 6, CFAM Curator Amy Galpin (center, back) will lead a tour of the artwork at The Alford Inn.**

East End Market



Nathan Selikoff



THE ROBINSONS PHOTOGRAPHY

COURTESY NATHAN SELIKOFF



Robert and Mary Greenock, Scotland, James Black, circa 1950s

JAMES BLACK

*“You Are Here is a geographic presence and also a social consciousness presence. It’s how you’re interacting and making your presence relevant in the environment you’re in.”* —Patrick Kahn, Snap! Orlando founder

Warhol in the 1960s; Gregg Seggal; Marc Schmidt, who shoots Miami street life; Yuri Maiorov, a Cirque du Soleil performer who does portraits of other Cirque talent; and many more.

On May 6, fans of conceptual art will enjoy cocktails and a tour of The Alford Inn. Led by CFAM Curator Amy Galpin, the tour will highlight works from The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, which were selected and donated by Barbara and Ted Alford, Rollins class of 1968.

Warhol aficionados have two exhibitions to enjoy. Through May 16, *Andy Warhol: The Photographs* will be on view at the Southeast Museum of Photography in Daytona Beach, while the Orlando Museum of Art will open *All About Warhol* on May 8.

### Moving Pictures & More

*You Are Here* will include film screenings as well. *Backstage*, which focuses on Orlando’s creative community, gets the big-screen treatment at the Dr. Phillips Center on May 20. The documentary *Finding Vivian Maier* will be shown on May 31 at the Enzian.

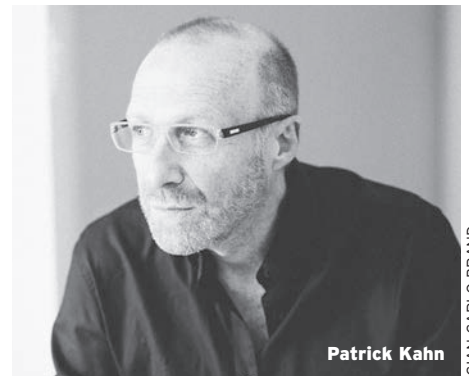
A nanny in Chicago, Maier was also a secret—and rather eccentric—street photographer who took more than 100,000 photos in her spare time. Unpublished during her lifetime, she is now considered one of the greatest photographers of the 20th century.

With dozens of world-class photographers gathering in Central Florida, it would be a shame not to garner some of their well-earned knowledge. Underwater photographers Jeff and Kyra Hartog will give a presentation at East End Market on May 12, while documentary photographer Hilda Perez will speak at CFAM on May 19 about her work as a senior photojournalist with Food for the Poor.

But the festival isn’t just for pictorial heavyweights. A student show and competition will be held at Canvs on May 21, while aspiring photographers of all ages can register to have their portfolios reviewed on May 23.

Schedules are subject to change; be sure to visit [SnapYouAreHere.com](http://SnapYouAreHere.com). **oam**

*Freelance writer G.K. Sharman is a regular contributor to Orlando Arts Magazine.*



GIAN CARLO BRAND

## To the Point

**Nearly all *You Are Here*, *Connect the Dots* ... events are free, though there may be a charge for refreshments. VIP passes are \$85 and include admission to a pre-event reception, the opening night VIP preview at Snap! Space, and free beverages and other perks at select events throughout the month. The \$30 Silver Pass covers the pre-event reception and some free or discounted drinks at other locations. Separate fees are charged for the portfolio reviews. Donations are welcome and are tax-deductible.**



Jeff Hartog

PHELAN EBENHACK



**MOMENT OF TRIUMPH, Stephane Federowski, 2013**

STEPHANE FEDEROWSKI