Innovation/Imagination:
50 Years of Polaroid Photography

Host: The Photographic Resource Center at Boston University (originally organized and traveled by the Friends of Photography, San Francisco, CA)

Contents: 81 works, consisting of 106 framed pieces.

Synopsis: This elegant exhibition surveys over 50 years of Polaroid fine art photography. In 1947, Edwin Land introduced the instant photograph. In order to insure that his products were meeting the needs of artists, he started a tradition that continues to this day—hiring photographers to test materials in exchange for work. This survey of the historic 23,000 + Polaroid collection includes the work of over 50 masters such as Ansel Adams, Minor White, and Robert Frank to contemporary artists such as Christian Boltanski, Chuck Close, Paul Caponigro, David Hockney, David Levinthal, Olivia Parker, Lucas Samaras, Andy Warhol, Carrie Mae Weems, and William Wegman. An extensive array of Polaroid processes are represented, including important variants such as transfer and image manipulations, ranging from the small SX-70s to the famous 20 x 24 inch, of which there are fewer than 11 cameras in the world.

Space Requirements: Approximately 330 feet of running wall space

Publications: A 120 page full-color catalogue published by Harry N. Abrams. Essays and introductions by Barbara Hitchcock, Polaroid Collection, Deborah Klochko, former Director of Friends of Photography, and Deborah Martin Kao, Curator of Photography at Harvard’s Fogg Art Museum.

Venues: Future venues include Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ. Past Venues have included Dayton Art Institute, University of New Mexico Art Museum, and the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Press Materials: This exhibition has received extensive national press. Required credit lines and proper citations will also be provided. A CD ROM of images is included.

Participation Fee: $5000, plus one-way shipping to the next venue. 6 crates: 43 x 42 x 44, 455 lbs.; 42 x 37 x 44, 441 lbs.; 42 x 28 x 32, 220 lbs., 69 x 65 x 15, 340 lbs., 74 x 45 x 23, 320 lbs., 62 x 40 x 33, 385 lbs.

Insurance Value: $440,000

For additional information please contact:
Leslie Brown, Curator
Photographic Resource Center at Boston University
832 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
617-975-0600 t, 617-975-0606 f
lkbrown@bu.edu