FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Overview:
The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to present The Fleeting Glimpse: Selections in Modern and Contemporary Photography from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts featuring 35 works by 27 artists using the photographic medium to transform common found occurrences in nature and humanity into unusual encounters and strange juxtapositions.

The Fleeting Glimpse is the first major focus on the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA)’s renowned photography collection and marks the first partnership collection-sharing program with the largest museum in the commonwealth. The Fleeting Glimpse is co-curated by Christine Carr, artist and assistant professor of art at Hollins University and Wilson Museum Director Amy Moorefield. The exhibition roster encompasses a group of provocative legends of the camera, both modern and contemporary, and features the work of artists including Berenice Abbott, Diane Arbus, Blythe Bohnen, Judy Dater, Jen Davis, John Divola, Robert Doisneau, Martin Dorbaum, David A. Douglas, Roy DeCarava, Lee Friedlander, Ralph Gibson, Emmet William Gowin, John N. Heroy Jr., Richard Kent Hough, Connie Imboden, Alen MacWeeney, Sally Mann, Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Ray K. Metzker, Joseph Mills, Brian H. Peterson, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Ruth Thorne-Thomsen, Jerry N. Uelsmann, Garry Winogrand, and Willie Anne Wright.

Through exploitation of a variety of photographic techniques including digital (Dorbaum), straightforward (Arbus), long exposure (Divola), vignette (Gowin) and pinhole process (Wright), the artists all share commonalities in the pursuit of a visually fragmented narrative in highly experimental work. The viewer has a “fleeting glimpse” of an implied alternative reality through the artists’ deliberate and sometimes happenstance staging and organization of chance elements. Using the camera, a number of the artists (Sugimoto, Dorbaum) create illusory portals in their compositions psychologically pulling the viewer into their realms. Other works (Arbus, Doisneau, Imboden) propel the viewer away through the sitters’
carefully staged gazes controlled by the artist’s surface manipulations transforming their features into fractured and dissociated objects. All entice the viewer with implied psychosomatic drama through bizarre subject matter and compositions inviting further examination.

The approachable medium of photography allows visitors to the exhibition the first “glimpse” of never before seen significant works by extremely well known leading photographers. The exhibition marks a unique opportunity for all in southwestern Virginia to experience famous works of photography. In addition to mounting this exhibition, the museum will host lectures and workshops to further explore photographic techniques, processes, and the history of the medium. The exhibition is accompanied by a full color catalogue with essays by both curators as well as Emily Smith, VMFA Curatorial Fellow. After its inaugural viewing at the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University, The Fleeting Glimpse will be on view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts from January 15 through April 3, 2011. Funding for The Fleeting Glimpse comes in part from the City of Roanoke through the Roanoke Arts Commission as well as support from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Exhibition Programming:

**Friday, October 15, 2010, 1pm**
**Curators’ Tour of The Fleeting Glimpse: Selections in Modern and Contemporary Photography from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**
**Eleanor D. Wilson Museum**
Exhibition co-curators Amy Moorefield and Christine Carr for a tour of The Fleeting Glimpse with an in-depth focus on the curatorial selections and photographic processes employed by the artists on display.

**Thursday, October 21, 6:00 pm**
**Lecture by photographer Jen Davis and Reception for The Fleeting Glimpse: Selections in Modern and Contemporary Photography from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.**
**Richard T. Wetherill Visual Arts Center, Frances J. Niederer Auditorium and Eleanor D. Wilson Museum**
*Fleeting Glimpse* exhibiting artist Jen Davis will lecture on her work. In a culture that defines beauty by physical appearance, Davis uses her own body and personal environment to explore self-perception through society’s lens. Her work has recently expanded to include documentation of virtual relationships over the Internet. Davis lives and works in New York City. She received her MFA from Yale University (2008), and her BA from Columbia College Chicago (2002). A reception will follow at 7:00 pm.

**Saturday, November 13, 2010,**
**Morning session: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Afternoon session: 1:00 - 3:00 pm**
**High School Photography Workshop**
**Eleanor D. Wilson Museum *Registration required.**
Hollins University studio art major Christina Murray encourages high school-aged photographers to explore the history and boundaries of the medium. In each two-hour session, Murray will guide a walkthrough of The Fleeting Glimpse and lead a discussion of photographic techniques before presenting a hands-on workshop in which participants will make their own pinhole camera. The event is free; however, space is limited. To register, contact Laura Jane Ramsburg at 540-362-6341 or lramsburg@hollins.edu
Wednesday, December 1, 6:00 pm
Lecture by Emily Smith, Curatorial Fellow of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Richard T. Wetherill Visual Arts Center, Frances J. Niederer Auditorium
and Eleanor D. Wilson Museum

Emily Smith, Curatorial Fellow of Modern and Contemporary Art at the VMFA, discusses the various photographic processes used in the exhibition and gives a background of the history of the medium. With specific reference to the work of Lee Friedlander and Hiroshi Sugimoto, Smith will provide art historical context to the work on display. A reception will follow at 7:00 pm.

All events are admissions free but some require advance registration. Please see individual listings above for details.

The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University, a premiere arts destination in the Roanoke Valley, features the work of nationally renowned artists, emerging figures, and regional names. The museum mounts exhibitions that explore currents in modern and contemporary art. Museum hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm, and Saturday, 1 - 5 pm; closed during university breaks. Admission is free. For more information, please call 540.362.6532 or visit www.hollins.edu/museum.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts located in Richmond, Virginia and just completed an expansion that makes it the 14th largest museum in the United States. The VMFA is a state-supported, privately endowed educational institution created for the benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art, to encourage the study of the arts, and thus to enrich the lives of all. Museum galleries and shop are open daily, 10 am – 5 pm, with evening hours extended until 9 pm on Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, please call 804.340.1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.

Funding provided for The Fleeting Glimpse comes in part from the City of Roanoke through the Roanoke Arts Commission.

The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum’s 2010 Community Partners are: