

**Michael Kolster**

August 2023

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*2013 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow*

Exhibition Record

Solo

- 2022/3 *Home and Other Realms*, University of New England Art Gallery, Portland, ME  
2020 *Paris Parks*, Metanoia Gallery, Paris, France  
2019 *Take Me to the River*, Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia  
2018 *Paris Parks*, Artspace Herndon, Herndon, Virginia  
*Hawaiian Plastiglomerates*, Lehman Gallery, Brooks School, N. Andover, MA  
2017 *Take Me to the River*, Combes Gallery, The American University of Paris, France  
2015 [Take Me to the River](#), Gallery 263, Cambridge, MA  
2014 [Proving Ground](#), PhoPa Gallery, Portland, Maine  
2013 *Rivers Lost and Found*, SRO Gallery, Texas Tech School of Art, Lubbock, TX  
*itiswhatitis*, Space Gallery, Portland, Maine  
2012 *Still Life: Photographs on Glass*, Schroeder Romero Shredder Gallery, Chelsea,  
New York, NY  
[A River Lost and Found](#), Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME  
*James River Photographs*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA  
*Down by the River*, Tony Hungerford Gallery, College of So. Maryland, La Plata  
*Two Rivers*, 621 Gallery, Tallahassee, FL  
2009 *New Orleans*, Muskie School, University of Southern Maine, Portland  
2008 *Dwell, n.*, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME  
2007 *Flux*, Area Gallery, USM, Portland, ME (catalog) photographs from New Orleans  
2006 *comeandsee*, The Map Room, Portland, ME (catalog)  
2005 *The Daily Post Grids*, Space Gallery, Portland, ME  
*Multiples*, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME  
2003 *Mojave*, Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA  
1999 *Selections*, FVA, San Francisco, CA  
1994 *Houses*, Bank of Oakland, Oakland, CA  
1992 *From Here to Now*, Boston University Bookstore, Boston, MA

Two-Person

- 2015 [The Redemption of the Schuylkill](#), Slought Foundation/University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, PA, with Geoffrey James  
2003 *Coastal*, Maine Center for Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME  
*Botanica*, Round Room Gallery, Danforth Museum, Framingham, MA,  
2002 *Maine Coast: Photos and Paintings*, Saco Museum, Saco, ME  
*Botanica*, Landau Gallery, Belmont, MA

Invitational Group

- 2023 *The Shape of Time*, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY

- People Watching*, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME  
*Downstream*, Decordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA  
*Work from the Stephen K. Halpert Collection of Photography*, UNE Art Gallery, Portland  
*Future Phenomenology*, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland  
*Viewfind 11*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2022 *The Morphing Medium*, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts  
*Photography Faculty II*, Cove Street Arts, Portland, ME  
*At First Light*, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
- 2021 *Complex Uncertainties*, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA (traveling exhibition and catalogue)  
*The Fleming Reimagined*, Fleming Museum of Art, UVM, Burlington, VT
- 2020 *Landmarks*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA  
*MMPA Celebrates 10 Years & 100 Maine Photo Collectors*, Maine Museum of  
Photographic Arts Gallery, Portland
- 2019 *All the Marvelous Surfaces: Photography Since Karl Blossfeldt*, deCordova Sculpture Park  
and Museum, Lincoln, MA  
*Everyday Maine II*, University of New England Gallery, Portland, Maine
- 2018 *Everyday Maine*, Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, UMaine Augusta  
*Art in the Open: Selections 2010-2018*, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Branching Out*, Union of Maine Visual Artists, Portland, Maine
- 2015 *Biennial*, Portland Museum of Art, Maine  
*Selections from the Bruce Brown Collection*, U of Maine Museum, of Art, Bangor  
*Highways and Byways*, Portland Public Library, Maine, Sponsored by CMCA  
*Sliver and Salt*, PhoPa Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2014 *Making a New Whole: The Art of Collage*, U of New England Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2013 *View Find*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2012 *Concerning Line*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2011 *Photographing Maine: Ten Years Later*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art
- 2009 *Ordinary Life*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
- 2008 *Art Show and Sale*, 30 Romasco Studio, Portland, ME
- 2003 *Taking Pictures*, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME
- 2002 *Art Faculty*, Bowdoin College, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME
- 1995 *Three Americans*, Z Space, Paris, France

*Juried Group*

- 2023 *CMCA Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport
- 2015 *Wet Plate Collodion*, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Director's Award  
*Surviving the Storm, Katrina 10 Years Later*, Montgomery College, Silver Spring, MD
- 2014 *Landscape Today and Tomorrow*, LLB Galleries, SUNY Geneseo  
*A Sense of Place*, Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Augusta, GA  
*Scope: The Southern Landscape*, Visual Art Exchange, Raleigh, NC  
*75 Years of Photography at City College*, SF Camera Work, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *National Exposure Revisited*, ARC Gallery, Chicago. IL  
*Art in the Open*, Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 *Art on Paper National Juried Exhibition*, MFA, Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD  
*ETAL*, California Museum of Photography, Riverside  
*The Suburban Challenge*, Salem Art Association, Salem, OR  
*Hand+Eye - Curators Choice Gallery*, TTL Gallery, Durham NC (catalog)
- 2010 *Altered: National Juried Photography Exhibition*, U of West Florida, Pensacola, FL
- 2009 *New England Photography Biennial*, Danforth Museum, Framingham, MA

- National Photography '09*, The Main Street Gallery, Groton, NY  
*American Visions Photography*, Museum of Anthropology CSU, Chico, CA  
 2002 *Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME  
*Plugged In*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME  
 1997 *Photo Review Juried Annual*, Philadelphia, PA, juried by Emmet Gowin  
 1994 *Magic Silver*, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky  
*Photo 94*, Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
*Juried Annual*, Center for the Visual Arts, Oakland, CA  
*MetroPhoto Annual*, San Francisco, CA  
 1992 *Graduate Students of New England*, Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA

### Grants and Awards

- 2023 Residency Fellow, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY  
 2021 Faculty Research Award (Subvention), Bowdoin College  
 2020 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College  
 Faculty Research Award (Subvention), Bowdoin College  
 2019 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College  
 2018 Artist Teaching Resident, Brooks School, No. Andover, MA  
 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College  
 Faculty Research Award (Subvention), Bowdoin College  
 2016 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College  
 2015 Project Grant Award, Maine Arts Commission  
 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College  
 2014 Finalist (with collaborator Matthew Klingle), Lange-Taylor Prize, Center for  
 Documentary Studies, Durham, NC  
 2013 [John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow](#)  
 Leave Supplement Award, Bowdoin College  
 Alan M. Christenfeld Award, Bowdoin College  
 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College  
 2012 Residency Fellow, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Amherst, VA  
 2011 Bowdoin Faculty Fellowship, Bowdoin College  
 2008 Sydney B. Karofsky Prize for Junior Faculty, Bowdoin College  
 2006 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College  
 2005 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College  
 2004 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College  
 2002 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College  
 Rusack Coastal Studies Project Initiative Fund, Bowdoin College  
 2002 Faculty Research and Travel Grant, Bowdoin College  
 2001 Rusack Coastal Studies Project Initiative Fund, Bowdoin College  
 1992 Polaroid Artist Support Grant, Polaroid Corporation  
 1991 Polaroid Artist Support Grant, Polaroid Corporation

### Work in Permanent Collections

The American University of Paris  
 Brown University Bell Gallery, Providence, RI  
 Capital One Financial Corporation  
 Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA  
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME  
Eastman Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY  
Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA  
Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington  
High Museum, Atlanta, GA  
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA  
Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland, ME  
Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL  
The Polaroid Corporation  
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME  
Princeton University Museum of Art, Princeton, NJ  
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA  
Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia  
University of New England, Portland, ME  
Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

### Monographs

- 2024 *[Hawaiian Plastiglomerates](#)*, photo book proposal accepted  
in development with projected 2024 release  
George Thompson Publishing, Inc.
- 2022 *[Paris Park Photographs](#)*, bilingual English/French, 120-page book of 54 tritone reproductions  
with an essay by Michelle Kuo  
George Thompson Publishing, Inc.
- 2019 *[L.A. River](#)*, 152-page book of Los Angeles River ambrotypes  
with essays by D. J. Waldie and Frank Golhke  
George Thompson Publishing, Inc.
- 2016 *[Take Me to the River](#)*, 240-page book of four river portfolios and three essays  
George Thompson Publishing, Inc., Staunton, Virginia  
Nominated for the Aperture Foundation's annual First Photo Book award.

### Publications

- 2020 *Museum from Home Series*, Portland Museum of Art, April  
2019 *[Spotlight: Cover Artist Michael Kolster](#)*, Memorious Issue 28  
2017 *[Take Me to the River](#)*, BokehBokeh, Berkeley, CA, Fall 2017  
*[That Historical Coincidence](#)*, "Eyes on the South," Oxford American Magazine, April 3  
*[Don't Take Pictures, Photo of the Day](#)*, June 15, Kat Kiernan  
2016 *[Take Me to the River](#)*, Social Documentary Network, January 2016 Spotlight  
2015 *[River Glass, Boom: A Journal of California](#)*, Summer, Vol. 5, No. 2,  
*You Can't Get There From Here*, Biennial Catalogue, Portland Museum of Art  
*[Changing Place](#)*, The Backstory, Audio Recording, Biennial, Portland Museum of Art  
*The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes*, 3rd Edition, Christopher James  
*Topsam: From the River to the Highlands*, by Robert C. Williams

- Maine Photographs: A History (1840-2015)*, by Bischof, Danly, and Shettleworth, Down East Books
- 2014 LA River Ambrotypes, *F-Stop Magazine, Issue #71*, Summer  
 2014 [From the River: Michael Kolster's Handmade Photographs](#), KCET Artbound, Carren Jao, Nov. 24
- 2012 [Loupe Vol 2, Issue 3](#), Journal of the Photographic Resource Center, Boston  
 2010 [Memorious Issue 18, A Journal of New Verse and Fiction](#)  
 2010 *Consilience – The Journal of Sustainable Development, Vol. 3, Issue 1*, Columbia University, NY  
 2007 *Last Days of the Coliseum*, Connecticut Public Television, Richard Hanley, producer  
 2006 *New Orleans Photographs 2005-2006*, catalogue  
 2006 *Four Projects: The Map Room as an Image-Making Device*, catalogue  
 1997 *Photo Review Annual*, Philadelphia, PA  
 1991 *From Here to Now*, commissioned book, Allendale Columbia School, Rochester, NY

## Reviews

- 2022 [Home and Other Realms at UNE](#), Jorge Arango, Portland Press Herald, December 18
- 2019 [Rivers Run Through Us](#), Rachael Flora, Connect Savannah, July  
[Michael Kolster's Take Me to the River](#), John Singer, Do Savannah, July 17  
*Take Me to the River*, Rob Hessler, Field Note, Art on the Air, WRUU, July  
[Michael Kolster's Take Me to the River](#), Morning Break, WTOG TV, Cyreia Sandlin
- 2018 [Michael Kolster - Take Me to the River](#), PhotoBook Journal, August 18
- 2017 [Take Me to the River Book Review](#), Emma Brown, ZEKE Magazine, Fall Issue  
*Take Me to the River Book Review*, A. Quintenz-Fiedler, Photographer's Forum, Summer Issue  
[Take Me to the River Book Review](#), Blake Andrews, PhotoEye, Santa Fe, March 23
- 2015 [THE PMA BIENNIAL](#), Britta Konau, The Portland Phoenix, November 4  
*Maine Event: Excellent Art on View in Portland Biennial*, S. Smee, The Boston Globe, Dec 15  
*Portland Museum of Art's Biennial*, D. Kany, Portland (ME) Press-Herald, Oct. 18  
*Art Review: The PMA Biennial*, S. Bouchard, The Bollard, Nov 5  
[Past and Present Perspectives](#), Britta Konau, The Portland Phoenix, April 1
- 2014 *Take Me to the River: Wet Plate Photography by Michael Kolster*, [35to220.com](#), June  
[Photos Mirror Images Taken Centuries Ago](#), Rob Pavey, Augusta (GA) Chronicle
- 2012 *Shock of the New, Amazing Use of the Old*, Phil Isaacson, Portland Press Herald  
*Androscoggin Project Gains Attention*, Kathryn Skelton, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME  
*Michael Kolster: Making a Glass Wall*, Kevin Logghe, Fotosavant.com, July  
*Resemblance*, Mark Harley, Richmond Arts Review, 14 September  
*Michael Kolster Explores the James River*, FanoftheFan.com, 19 September  
*New Photography by Michael Kolster*, Rebecca Barnabi, Examiner.com, September  
*Michael Kolster: Still Life, Photographs on Glass*, NY Art Beat, July  
*A River Lost and Found*, 207 News Magazine segment, WCSH6 TV, Portland, ME
- 2011 The Androscoggin Then and Now, article and video, Kathryn Skelton, Sun Journal
- 2008 *Dwell, n. at Icon*, David Raymond, *Art New England*, June/July  
*He Points, Shoots, Makes a Point*, Philip Isaacson, *Maine Sunday Telegram*, April
- 2006 *Don't Forget New Orleans*, Beth Brogan, *Times Record*, Brunswick, ME, October  
*comeandsee*, Philip Isaacson, *Maine Sunday Telegram*, August

- 2004 *Eye Cartography*, Ian Paige, *Portland Phoenix*, July  
*Multiples at Icon*, Chris Thompson, *Art New England*, June/July  
*Kolster's Decisiveness*, Philip Isaacson, *Maine Sunday Telegram*

### Residencies

- 2023 Residency Fellow, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY  
 2018 Artist-in-Residence, The Brooks School, North Andover, MA  
 2017 Artist-in-Residence, The American University of Paris  
 2012 Residency Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, VA  
 Art in the Open Philadelphia, Juried Participating Artist  
 Visiting Artist, University of Richmond, VA  
 2000 Visiting International Artist, Brasil Em Foco, São Paulo, Brazil

### Visiting Artist Lectures

- 2022 Spring Speaker Series, L. L. Bean, Freetown, ME  
 2020 "Horizon Markers: Plastiglomerates in Paradise," 2020 Hawaii International  
 Conference on Arts & Humanities, Honolulu  
 2019 Artist Lecture, "Take Me to the River," Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA  
 2018 "Photographic Process - Clarence White" lecture to docents,  
 Portland (ME) Museum of Art  
 "Clarence White's World," gallery talk, Portland (ME) Museum of Art  
 Audio Guide Discussant as part of Clarence White exhibition,  
 Portland Museum of Art  
 2017 "Photographers on Photography," gallery talk, Portland Museum of Art, ME  
 The Griffin Museum, Winchester, MA  
 2016 Skowhegan History House Museum & Research Center, Skowhegan, Maine  
 Yarmouth Historical Society, Yarmouth, Maine  
 2015 Panel discussion, Slought Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, *The Redemption of the  
 Schuylkill River*  
 "Photography in Focus," Mellon Workshop, Bowdoin College Museum of Art  
 2014 Artist Lecture, Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia  
 Artist Lecture, Georgia Regents University, Augusta  
 2013 Gale Memorial Lecture, University of New Mexico School of Art, Albuquerque  
 2012 "The Androscoggin River: Lost and Found," Hallowell Gallery, Hallowell, ME  
 "The Androscoggin River: Lost and Found," Western Maine Audubon, Jay, ME  
 2011 "The Androscoggin River: Lost and Found," Civic Forum Series, Bates College,  
 Lewiston, ME  
 Artist Lecture, University of Richmond, VA  
 2009 Framing Time and Place Conference, University of Plymouth, UK  
 "New Orleans: Rebuilding an American City," Muskie School for Public Service,  
 University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME  
 "Approaching the Big Picture Problem – New Orleans Rebuilds and The Daily  
 Post," Allendale Columbia School, Rochester, NY  
 2007 Learning Associate, Bates College, Lewiston, ME  
 Rockwell Visiting Artist, The Taft School, Watertown, CT  
 Artist-in-Residence, University of Southern Maine, Gorham, ME

## Education

- 1992 M.F.A., Photography, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA  
1989 Certificate, Documentary Photography full-time program  
International Center of Photography, NY, NY  
1985 B.A., American Studies, Williams College, Williamstown, MA,  
concentration in Math/Computer Science

## Professional Experience

- currently Professor of Art, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME  
2009-2018 Associate Professor of Art, Bowdoin College  
2001-2009 Assistant Professor of Art, Bowdoin College  
2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, Bowdoin College  
1994-2000 Instructor of Photography, Academy of Art College, San Francisco, CA  
1995-1998 Instructor of Photography, City College of San Francisco  
1995 Instructor of Photography, UC Extension, San Francisco