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**PHOTO INDEPENDENT Announces Artist Talk Program**

**Dialogue: Image Making in the Modern World features Barbara Davidson, Ron Haviv, Gerd Ludwig, Susan Burnside, Scott Caan, Douglas Kirkland & Debra Weiss**

(Los Angeles, CA--April 23, 2015) – PHOTO INDEPENDENT, the first artist-only photography fair will present a series of lectures at Raleigh Studios on May 2-3, 2015.

**Dialogue: Image Making In The Modern World** provides visitors insight into the current and future landscape of contemporary photography. Led by distinguished curators and photographers *the Dialogues* offer a first hand look into the practice and profession of image making. All events will be open to photographers and the general public, and attendance will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Saturday, May 2 Raleigh Studios: Chaplin Building Screening Rooms**

**Debra Weiss in Conversation with Barbara Davidson and Ron Haviv**

**12:30 pm-2:30 pm**

Barbara Davidson is a multiple award-winning LA Times staff photographer who has covered and documented conflicts and humanitarian crises around the globe and remains committed to giving a voice to her subjects through the camera.

Barbara's awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, the Visa d'Or daily press award, POY Newspaper Photographer of the Year (twice) and she has been honored by the White House News Photographers Assn. and the National Press Photographers Assn.

Ron Haviv is an Emmy nominated, award-winning photojournalist and co-founder of the photo agency VII, dedicated to documenting conflict and raising awareness about human rights issues around the globe.

Debra Weiss, *Creative Consultant, Lecturer, Moderator, Independent Curator, Author, Advocate* Besides lecturing, presenting seminars and moderating panels, Weiss works with photographers helping to guide their career as an artist and a business by creating an artistic marketable identity that will improve their opportunities for success.

**From the Core: A Photographer's Journey, Artist Lecture with Susan Burnstine**

**3:00-4:00 pm**

Susan Burnstine is an award-winning fine art photographer and journalist best known for her dramatic black and white images that illustrate her dreams.

Susan began making photographs as a way of facing and working through the nightmares and night terrors that have haunted her since childhood. She is also known for making her own cameras and lenses, initially from ruins of toy camera bodies, and now from found objects and assorted other materials and using them to create the dramatic effects that best represent her vision of her dreams. She has written for many notable photography publications, including a monthly column for *B&W Magazine UK*.

*Susan Burnstine's lecture is sponsored by Santa Fe Photographic Workshops.*

### **SUNDAY, MAY 3 Raleigh Studios: Chaplin Building Screening Rooms**

#### **A Conversation with Actor/Photographer Scott Caan and Debra Weiss**

**12 pm-1 pm**

Multi-talented artist Scott Caan developed a passion for photography in 2003 while directing his first film "Dallas 362". Inspired and mentored by cinematographer Phil Parmet, Scott Caan has grown into a photographer to be noticed.

His journalistic style of photography is intimate and evocative, unapologetic and compassionate. His first book "Scott Caan Photographs, Vol. 1" was published in 2009, followed by "Vanity – Photographs by Scott Caan" in 2014.

#### **A Conversation with Douglas Kirkland and Debra Weiss**

**1:30-3:00 pm**

Legendary Canadian born photographer Douglas Kirkland joined Look Magazine in his early twenties and later worked for LIFE during the golden age of 60's & 70's photojournalism where he worked on assignments ranging from essays on Greece, Lebanon and Japan to photographing Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlene Dietrich and many more fashion and celebrity icons. His many published books include *James Cameron's Titanic*, *An Evening With Marilyn*, *Coco Chanel. Three Weeks*, *Michael Jackson – The Making of Thriller* and his recent monograph on his career entitled *Douglas Kirkland – A Life In Pictures*.

His work continues to be widely exhibited and is in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian, The National Portrait Gallery (London), The National Portrait Gallery (Canberra, Australia), Eastman House, The Annenberg Space for Photography, The Houston Center for Photography and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Now in his seventh decade of photography, his talent and boundless energy will guarantee a future filled with many more iconic images.

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#### **A Conversation with Gerd Ludwig and Debra Weiss**

**3:30-5:00 pm**

Following a degree in Photo Design from the University of Essen, Gerd Ludwig co-founded VISUM, the first photographer-owned photo agency in Germany. In 1975, he moved to Hamburg where he began working for international publications and advertising agencies. He relocated to

NY in 1984 and in the early 90's signed on with National Geographic as a contract photographer. Considered an expert on the Soviet Union and present day Russia, his humanistic focus on the socio-economic changes following the collapse of the Soviet Union led to the publication of his book, *Broken Empire: After The Fall of the USSR*.

Gerd first photographed the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster for National Geographic in 1993 and again in 2005. After attempts to secure financing from major publications for a return to Chernobyl for the 25th anniversary of the disaster failed. Gerd turned to crowd funding and became one of the first internationally known photographers to utilize crowd funding. The images from his return trip have been widely exhibited and have left to the creation of his iPad APP, *The Long Shadow of Chernobyl*. A return trip to the Zone in 2013 resulted in a 20-year retrospective book also entitled *The Long Shadow of Chernobyl* whose launch coincided with a major exhibition at the Naturhistorisches Museum (Natural History Museum) in Vienna, Austria.

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PHOTO INDEPENDENT will open with a benefit on Friday May 1 from 5-10pm. General show hours are Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-7pm and on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11am-6pm. PHOTO INDEPENDENT takes place at Raleigh Studios, 5300 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90038. Onsite parking is available for a \$10 fee on the Raleigh Studios lot, entrance on Van Ness Avenue, just south of Melrose Avenue. For additional information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.PhotoIndependent.com](http://www.PhotoIndependent.com). Media inquiries, contact Agnes Gomes-Koizumi, [agnes@agkmedia.com](mailto:agnes@agkmedia.com).