

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Erin Hogan
(312) 443-3664
ehogan@artic.edu

Chai Lee
(312) 443-3625
cle4@artic.edu

LEADER OF ART INSTITUTE PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT TO RETIRE

David Travis to Step Down June 2008

The Art Institute of Chicago announces the retirement of **David Travis**, the Chair of the Department of Photography, effective June 30, 2008. Travis began his career at the Art Institute as an assistant curator of photography in the Department of Prints and Drawings in 1972 and was a full curator in 1975, when the Department of Photography was officially established.

James Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute, said, "David Travis has had a long and extraordinarily productive career at the museum, and it is impossible to conceive of the department here without his imprint. As the leader of the department for more than thirty years, David has built a very deep collection, overseen the renovation of the photography galleries and vaults, developed a conservation program, and produced widely respected scholarship. We wish him the best as he moves on to devote more time to writing and lecturing."

Travis has organized and presented more than 150 exhibitions of photography at the Art Institute in his 36-year tenure, including exhibitions of the work of Walker Evans, André Kertész, Edward Weston, Paul Strand, and Brassai. He is perhaps best known for his landmark exhibitions *On the Art of Fixing a Shadow*, an exhibition of more than 400 photographs, and *Starting with Atget: Photographs from the Julien Levy Collection*. He has

additionally prepared many thematic exhibitions, from images of “seas and skies”—featuring the work of Gustave LeGray, Hiroshi Sugimoto, and Dodo Jin Man—to the photographic work of Chicago’s own Institute of Design from 1937 to 1971.

Travis has also guest curated a number of exhibitions that have been shown at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. For his special contributions to the advancement of awareness and understanding of French culture, he was awarded the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 1987. He has also been a guest scholar at the J. Paul Getty Museum and in 2002 he was named a “Chicagoan of the Year” by *Chicago* magazine. *At the Edge of the Light: Thoughts on Photographers and Photography, on Talent and Genius*, a collection of his lectures and essays, was published in 2003.

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MUSEUM HOURS:

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. **Thursday, Friday. Target Free Evenings after 5:00 p.m.**
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday

SUMMER HOURS:

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
10:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m. **Thursday, Friday. Target Free Evenings after 5:00 p.m.**
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday

Free all day, every day in February.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.

Please check www.artic.edu before your visit.

Admission: Adults, \$12.00; children 12 and over, students, and seniors, \$7.00; children under 12 free; members always free. Target Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a “Check Us Out” card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago. Members always have free, unlimited access to the museum, including ticketed exhibitions. Join today at www.artic.edu/aic/joinnow

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago’s Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.