

# T H E P O L Y G O N

December 20, 2018

For immediate release

The Polygon Gallery presents a new exhibition *A Handful of Dust: from the Cosmic to the Domestic*, opening February 8 - April 28, 2019. This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view a remarkable diversity of photographs from the last 100 years, focusing on the theme of dust, unified in a visual journey through the unlikely imagery.



Here, curator and critic David Campany proposes a speculative history of the past century, beginning with an iconic photograph by legendary artist Man Ray picturing a sheet of glass belonging to Marcel Duchamp covered in dust. In October 1922, the image is published in an avant-garde French journal with the deliberately misleading caption: *View from an aeroplane*. It is later renamed *Dust Breeding*. The very same month, a little English journal publishes TS Eliot's poem *The Waste Land*: "I will show you fear in a handful of dust."

And what if dust is really a key to the ensuing decades? Why do we dislike it? We are stardust, after all. Dust must be kept well away from camera equipment, but it is deeply photogenic. There is also something universal about dust: we come from it, go to it, and create it daily. Inevitable and unruly, dust is the enemy of the modern order, its repressed other, its nemesis. But it has a story to tell from the other side.

The connections range far and wide, from aerial reconnaissance and the American dustbowl to Mussolini's final car journey and the wars in Iraq. *A Handful of Dust* features a range of photographic works by renowned artists **John Divola, Marcel Duchamp, Walker Evans, Gerhard Richter, Sophie Ristelhueber, Xavier Ribas, Jeff Wall** and many others, alongside anonymous press photos, postcards, magazine spreads and movies.

#### About the Curator:

Based in London, UK, David Campany is one of the most acclaimed photography experts of our time whose fresh perspectives on the history of the medium have had a profound impact on art and scholarship. He has published widely and curated a number of critical exhibitions. For his writing, he has received the ICP Infinity Award, the Kraszna-Krausz Book Award, the Alice Award, a Deutscher Fotobuchpreis, and the Royal Photographic Society's award for writing. Campany is co-founder and co-editor of PA Magazine, which has been published since 2008. He teaches photographic theory and practice at the University of Westminster.

#### Upcoming Events:

Thursday, February 7

7pm Members Preview and Introductory Tour with David Campany

8pm Opening Reception

Saturday, February 9

7pm Lecture with David Campany

Admission by donation

#### Publication:

An in-depth catalogue and other publications by David Campany will be available in The Polygon Bookstore.

#### Participating Venues:

2015 Le Bal, Paris

2016 Pratt Institute, New York

2017 Whitechapel Gallery, London

2018 California Museum of Photography, Riverside

2019 The Polygon Gallery, North Vancouver



#### Media Contact

Jennifer Wheeler

Marketing Manager, The Polygon Gallery

[j.wheeler@thepolygon.ca](mailto:j.wheeler@thepolygon.ca)

604-986-1351

#### Listing Information

The Polygon Gallery presents *A Handful of Dust: from the Cosmic to the Domestic*. Offering a rare opportunity to view a remarkable diversity of photographs from the last 100 years, and focusing on the theme of dust, unified in a visual journey through the unlikely imagery. Admission is always by donation.

**Exhibition Dates:** February 8 - April 28, 2019

**Venue:** The Polygon Gallery, 101 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver BC, V7M 3J4

**Hours:** Open Tues - Sun, 10am - 5pm. Closed Mondays.

**Website:** [thepolygon.ca/exhibition/a-handful-of-dust/](http://thepolygon.ca/exhibition/a-handful-of-dust/)

#### Social Media

The Polygon Gallery

Facebook: [thepolygongallery](https://www.facebook.com/thepolygongallery).

Twitter: [@\\_ThePolygon](https://twitter.com/_ThePolygon)

Instagram: [@thepolygongallery](https://www.instagram.com/_thepolygongallery).

Hashtags: #ThePolygon #aHandfulofDust

#### About The Polygon Gallery

Known as Presentation House Gallery for four decades, The Polygon Gallery is considered one of Canada's most internationally acclaimed public art galleries. With a mandate to exhibit and disseminate photography and media art, the Gallery emphasizes contemporary Canadian artists within a context of historical and international art.

Nearly 30 years in the making, The Polygon Gallery's new purpose-built home, which opened its doors on November 18, 2017, is a landmark building situated on North Vancouver's waterfront designed by British Columbia's internationally lauded architectural firm, Patkau Architects, for the presentation of the preeminent art form of our age.

Admission is always by donation, courtesy of BMO Financial Group.

[thepolygon.ca](http://thepolygon.ca)



(Top) Photographer unknown, *The Library of Holland House Library, Kensington, London, after air raid*, 1940  
(Middle, left) Scott McFarland, *Lens Cleaning Schneider APO-Symmar 5.6/180MM; James Perse Space Crewneck Jersey T-shirt*, 2017, chromogenic print, studio dust displayed in custom colour frame, 64 x 51 cm  
(Middle, right) Photographer unknown, *press photograph taken after Kansas dust storm*, 1935

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