

September 3, 2024

Voyageur Media Release

"Capturing Life" documentary

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"Capturing Life" (1839-1869)

A one-hour documentary about our region's remarkable photographic heritage

Three public screenings scheduled during the FotoFocus Biennial in October

Greater Cincinnati was a major center for the development of early American photography. The region's remarkable photographic history is revealed in "Capturing Life" (1839-1869), a one-hour documentary to be shown in three, free public screenings during the FotoFocus Biennial in October. "Capturing Life" (1839-1869) examines the social, economic and cultural impact of photography as our region rose from modest river towns into a commercial powerhouse in America's heartland.



"Capturing Life" (1839-1869) is the first episode in *The Big Picture: A History of Photography in Greater Cincinnati*, a documentary series being produced by the nonprofit organization Voyageur Media Group, Inc. "Capturing Life" (1839-1869) features the remarkable careers of American photographic pioneers, including: Dr. John Locke, a chemistry professor who created the first photographs (photogenic drawings) ever displayed in America; Ezekiel Hawkins, a sign painter who established the region's first daguerreotype studio in

1841; James P. Ball, an African-American entrepreneur who not only owned one of the nation's most successful daguerreotype studios, but also served as a leader in the abolitionist movement; Charles Fontayne and William Porter, whose eight-plate panorama, *Daguerreotype View of Cincinnati, 1848*, is the oldest comprehensive photograph of a city in North America; and Charles Waldack who used magnesium light to make the first photographs of a cave system in America at Mammoth Cave in 1866.

"Capturing Life" (1839-1869) combines interviews with rare archival photographs, original artworks and 4k video for a compelling look at our region's rich photographic heritage. The documentary explores the impact of photography on such historical events as immigration, western expansion, the abolitionist movement, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and post-war industrialization.

October Screenings

Voyageur is holding a series of three public screenings with panel discussions during the FotoFocus Biennial in October. These events are free and open to the general public. Advance registration is not required. Please see Voyageur's website for details: <https://voyageurmedia.org/>

Wednesday, October 9, 2024: Premiere screening, 6-8 pm, Reakirt Auditorium, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Union Terminal, 1301 Western Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203.

Thursday, October 17, 2024: Education screening, 5-7 pm, George and Ellen Rieveschl Digitarium, Griffin Hall, Northern Kentucky University, Nunn Drive, Highland Heights, Kentucky 41099

Tuesday, October 29, 2024: Community screening, 6-8 pm, Huenefeld Tower Room, Third Floor, Main Branch, Cincinnati Public Library, 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Voyageur Media Group, Inc.

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of public media about science, history and culture. Voyageur's production team is collaborating with regional scholars, archivists, museums, libraries and academic institutions on the documentary project, which also features a companion website and educational materials. The documentary will also be distributed to regional public television stations and through streaming video for research and educational use.

More information is available on Voyageur's project website:

<https://voyageurmedia.org/projects/the-big-picture-a-history-of-photography-in-greater-cincinnati-home/>

Media Materials

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. is pleased to provide members of the media with additional information, promotional images, and interview. Please contact:

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