

Conference

Nicholas Nixon

*The Art of the Portrait:
Looking Closely,
Looking Longer*

KBr

Fundación **MAPFRE**

Nicholas Nixon

The Art of the Portrait: Looking Closely, Looking Longer.



Date
November 20

Time
7 pm

In person and online

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Nicholas Nixon, *The Brown Sisters*,
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, 2021
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On the occasion of the workshop *The Fine Line of Portraiture*, to be given by Nicholas Nixon from November 21-24, 2024, we offer this presentation which retraces the career of the renowned photographer, master of portraiture and black and white social photography.

Influenced by the photographs of Edward Weston and Walker Evans, he began working with large-format cameras eschewing lighter and faster 35mm models. These bulkier cameras, coupled with the slow pace necessary to operate them, allowed him to work unhurriedly and form close bonds with his subjects.

In a fast-paced, now mostly digital world, Nicholas Nixon's photographs invite viewers to slow down and reflect on the subjects represented, and the relationships between them. The role of time, inherent to the photographic medium, is integral to Nixon's practice in terms of both composition and process. The intimacy that he achieves with his subjects allows a respectful glimpse into their life and results in deeply moving photographs that convey empathy and experience.

In conversation with Arianna Rinaldo, director of KBr's series of workshops titled *Get Real! (Open your eyes!)*, Nicholas Nixon will take us through his career, from its initial stages through to his ongoing and well known series *The Brown Sisters*, in addition to other social documentary projects.

Focusing on his long-term projects, Nixon will discuss his prevailing methodology which, according to gallerist Jeffrey Fraenkel, can be summed up as "looking slowly, carefully and precisely." The conversation's title is inspired by the title of the seminal monographic exhibition of Nixon's work curated by John Szarkowski in 1976 at the MoMA in New York: *Longer Views: 40 photographs by Nicholas Nixon*.

Nicholas Nixon was born in 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. He studied American literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and received an MFA in photography at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. He has worked as an independent photographer since 1974. He has been awarded two John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships and three National Endowment for the Arts Photographer's Fellowships. He was a professor of photography at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston until 2018. Nixon's first solo exhibition took place in 1976 at the Museum of Modern Art and was curated by John Szarkowski. His photographs have been exhibited at numerous museums and galleries, including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio; and the Pinakothek der Modern, Munich. He has published many books of photographs including *Nicholas Nixon* (2003); *A City Seen* (2001); *The Brown Sisters* (1999); *School: Photographs from Three Schools* (1998); *People with AIDS* (1991); *Family Pictures* (1991); *Nicholas Nixon: Pictures of People* (1988); and *Photographs from One Year* (1983). Nixon's photographs belong to prestigious collections including those of Fundación MAPFRE; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, among many others.

Arianna Rinaldo (Milan, Italy, 1971) is an independent curator and freelance photo editor. Between 2012 and 2021 she directed the international festival *Cortona On The Move* in Tuscany. Recently she has directed the documentary photography magazine *OjodePez* and, from 1998 through 2001 was director of the Magnum Photos archive in New York. Since 2016 she has curated exhibitions at PhEST, the international festival of photography and art in Monopoli, and continues to develop photographic projects internationally, as well as teaching and mentoring. She is on the selection committee for the British Journal of Photography Ones to Watch, the Leica Oskar Barnack Award (LOBAs) and the Deutsche Börse Prize.

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