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**Shown left:** Aaron Siskind, *Pleasures & Terrors of Levitation #94*, 1961. Gelatin silver print, 14 x 11 inches. Courtesy of the Aaron Siskind Foundation. Image © Aaron Siskind Foundation / Courtesy of Bruce Silverstein Gallery, New York City.

***Asheville Art Museum Debuts Exhibition Celebrating the Work of  
 Abstract Expressionist Photographer, Aaron Siskind***  
 Exhibition Opens to the Public Saturday, March 23, 2013

ASHEVILLE, NC— The Asheville Art Museum presents [\*\*Aaron Siskind: Abstract Expressionist Photographer\*\*](#), opening in the Museum's North Wing on **Saturday, March 23, 2013** (exhibition is free with membership or regular Museum admission). This exhibition is accompanied by a day-long **photography workshop** at the Museum with Asheville's *f/32 Photography Group* on **Thursday, March 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Additional workshop details are available at [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org). The deadline to register for the photography workshop is Tuesday, March 19. Call 828.253.3227 to register. ***Aaron Siskind: Abstract Expressionist Photographer*** will remain on view through June 23, 2013 in the Museum's North Wing, Gallery 6.

Aaron Siskind (1903 – 1991) was born in New York City, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. After receiving his Bachelor of Social Science degree in Literature from College of the City of New York in 1926, Siskind taught high school English for 21 years in the New York public school system. His first loves were music and poetry, but he took an interest in photography in 1930 when he received a camera as a wedding gift. Siskind was still teaching in the public schools when he joined the New York Photo League, with whom he produced several significant socially-conscious series of images in the 1930s. The *Harlem Document* remains his best known body of work from this period.

Siskind's later photography focused on the details of nature and architecture, treating them as flat surfaces to create images which were independent of the original subjects. Much of Siskind's pioneering photography from this period has ties to the work done by the Abstract Expressionist painters at the same time. One of Siskind's close friends was

the painter Franz Kline, to whom Siskind created a series of photographs titled *Homage to Franz Kline* after the painter's death in 1962.

While teaching at Black Mountain College in the summer of 1951, Siskind met fellow faculty member and photographer Harry Callahan. Callahan persuaded Siskind to join him as part of the faculty of the IIT Institute of Design in Chicago in 1951. Siskind took over as head of the photography program when Callahan left in 1961. In 1971 Siskind left the Institute of Design and again followed Callahan to the Rhode Island School of Design where he continued to teach until his retirement in 1976.

This exhibition was organized by the Asheville Art Museum with support from *f/32* Photography Group. We also recognize Aaron Siskind Foundation, lender to the exhibition. All images © Aaron Siskind Foundation / Courtesy of Bruce Silverstein Gallery, New York City.

**Registration deadline: Tuesday, March 19**  
**Day-long photography workshop with *f/32* Photography Group**  
Thursday, March 21 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)  
*\$80 members, \$95 non-members*

More details for this workshop are available at [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org).

### **About the Asheville Art Museum**

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

Additional information for upcoming exhibitions and public programs at the Museum can be found online at [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org).

**Special thanks to *Bold Life*, *Verve* and *Carolina Home & Garden* magazines for their support as a Media Sponsor of the Museum for the 2013 fiscal year.** For more information about media sponsorships, please email Kathleen Glass, Communications Manager, at [kglass@ashevilleart.org](mailto:kglass@ashevilleart.org).

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

**Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and students (K-12 and college students with college ID). Children age five and younger are admitted free of charge. Members are admitted free of charge. The Holden Community Gallery, Museum Shop and Biltmore Gallery (all located on the first floor/street level of the Museum, are open at all times to the general public free of charge).**

**The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.**

**The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.**