

Michael Kolster
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January 2026

2013 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow

Exhibition Record

Solo

- 2025 *Lewiston* (part of *Unspoken Resilience*), University of New England Art Gallery, Portland, ME
2022 *Home and Other Realms*, UNE Art Gallery, Portland, ME
2020 *Paris Parks*, Metanoia Gallery, Paris, France
2019 *Take Me to the River*, Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia
2018 *Paris Parks*, Artspace Herndon, Herndon, Virginia
Hawaiian Plastiglomerates, Lehman Gallery, Brooks School, N. Andover, MA
2017 *Take Me to the River*, Combes Gallery, The American University of Paris, France
2015 [*Take Me to the River*](#), Gallery 263, Cambridge, MA
2014 [*Proving Ground*](#), PhoPa Gallery, Portland, Maine
2013 *Rivers Lost and Found*, SRO Gallery, Texas Tech School of Art, Lubbock, TX
itismbatits, Space Gallery, Portland, Maine
2012 *Still Life: Photographs on Glass*, Schroeder Romero Shredder Gallery, New York, NY
[*A River Lost and Found*](#), Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
James River Photographs, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
Down by the River, Tony Hungerford Gallery, College of So. Maryland, La Plata
Two Rivers, 621 Gallery, Tallahassee, FL
2009 *New Orleans*, Muskie School, University of Southern Maine, Portland
2008 *Dwell, n.*, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME
2007 *Flux*, Area Gallery, USM, Portland, ME (catalog) photographs from New Orleans
2006 *comeandsee*, The Map Room, Portland, ME (catalog)
2005 *The Daily Post* Grids, Space Gallery, Portland, ME
Multiples, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME
2003 *Mojave*, Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA
1999 *Selections*, FVA, San Francisco, CA
1994 *Houses*, Bank of Oakland, Oakland, CA
1992 *From Here to Now*, Boston University Bookstore, Boston, MA

Two-Person

- 2015 [*The Redemption of the Schuylkill*](#), Slought Foundation/University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, with Geoffrey James
2003 *Coastal*, Maine Center for Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
Botanica, Round Room Gallery, Danforth Museum, Framingham, MA,
2002 *Maine Coast: Photos and Paintings*, Saco Museum, Saco, ME
Botanica, Landau Gallery, Belmont, MA

Invitational Group

- 2025 *IV Biennale di Senigallia*, Senigallia, Italy
A Decade of Collecting Photography, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA
An Unreliable Record, UNE Art Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2023 *Mind Over Matter*, Cove Street Arts, Portland, ME
The Shape of Time, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY
People Watching, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
Downstream, Decordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
Work from the Stephen K. Halpert Collection of Photography, UNE Art Gallery, Portland
Future Phenomenology, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland
Viewfind 11, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2022 *The Morphing Medium*, MMPA
Photography Faculty II, Cove Street Arts, Portland, ME
At First Light, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
- 2021 *Complex Uncertainties*, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA
The Fleming Reimagined, Fleming Museum of Art, UVM, Burlington, VT
- 2020 *Landmarks*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA
MMPA Celebrates 10 Years & 100 Maine Photo Collectors, MMPA
- 2019 *All the Marvelous Surfaces: Photography Since Karl Blossfeldt*, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA
Everyday Maine II, UNE Art Gallery, Portland, Maine
- 2018 *Everyday Maine*, Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, UMaine Augusta
Art in the Open: Selections 2010-2018, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Branching Out*, Union of Maine Visual Artists, Portland, Maine
- 2015 *Biennial*, Portland Museum of Art, Maine
Selections from the Bruce Brown Collection, U of Maine Museum, of Art, Bangor
Highways and Byways, Portland Public Library, Maine, Sponsored by CMCA
Sliver and Salt, PhoPa Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2014 *Making a New Whole: The Art of Collage*, U of New England Gallery, Portland, ME
- 2013 *View Find*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2012 *Concerning Line*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2011 *Photographing Maine: Ten Years Later*, CMCA
- 2009 *Ordinary Life*, CMCA, Rockport, ME
- 2003 *Taking Pictures*, Icon Contemporary Art, Brunswick, ME

Juried Group

- 2023 *CMCA Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport
- 2015 *Wet Plate Collodion*, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Director's Award
Surviving the Storm, Katrina 10 Years Later, Montgomery College, Silver Spring, MD
- 2014 *Landscape Today and Tomorrow*, LLB Galleries, SUNY Geneseo
A Sense of Place, Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Augusta, GA
Scope: The Southern Landscape, Visual Art Exchange, Raleigh, NC
75 Years of Photography at City College, SF Camera Work, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *National Exposure Revisited*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL
Art in the Open, Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 *Art on Paper National Juried Exhibition*, MFA, Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD

- ETAL*, California Museum of Photography, Riverside
The Suburban Challenge, Salem Art Association, Salem, OR
Hand+Eye - Curators Choice Gallery, TTL Gallery, Durham NC (catalog)
- 2010 *Altered: National Juried Photography Exhibition*, U of West Florida, Pensacola, FL
- 2009 *New England Photography Biennial*, Danforth Museum, Framingham, MA
National Photography '09, The Main Street Gallery, Groton, NY
American Visions Photography, Museum of Anthropology CSU, Chico, CA
- 2002 *Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
Plugged In, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
- 1997 *Photo Review Juried Annual*, Philadelphia, PA, juried by Emmet Gowin
- 1994 *Magic Silver*, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky
Photo 94, Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Juried Annual, Center for the Visual Arts, Oakland, CA
MetroPhoto Annual, San Francisco, CA
- 1992 *Graduate Students of New England*, Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA

Grants and Awards

- 2024 Residency Fellow, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Amherst, VA
 Residency Fellow, Le Moulin à Nef, Auvillar, France
- 2023 Andrew W. Mellon Leave Supplement Award, Bowdoin College
 Residency Fellow, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY
- 2022 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
- 2021 Faculty Research Award (Subvention), Bowdoin College
- 2020 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
 Faculty Research Award (Subvention), Bowdoin College
- 2019 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
- 2018 Artist Teaching Resident, Brooks School, No. Andover, MA
 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
 Faculty Research Award (Subvention), Bowdoin College
- 2016 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
- 2015 Project Grant Award, Maine Arts Commission
 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
- 2014 Finalist (with collaborator Matthew Klingle), Lange-Taylor Prize, Center for
 Documentary Studies, Durham, NC
- 2013 [John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow](#)
 Leave Supplement Award, Bowdoin College
 Alan M. Christenfeld Award, Bowdoin College
 Faculty Research Award, Bowdoin College
- 2012 Residency Fellow, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Amherst, VA
- 2011 Bowdoin Faculty Fellowship, Bowdoin College
- 2008 Sydney B. Karofsky Prize for Junior Faculty, Bowdoin College
- 2006 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College
- 2005 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College
- 2004 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College
- 2002 Fletcher Family Research Grant, Bowdoin College
 Rusack Coastal Studies Project Initiative Fund, Bowdoin College
- 2002 Faculty Research and Travel Grant, Bowdoin College

- 2001 Rusack Coastal Studies Project Initiative Fund, Bowdoin College
 1992 Polaroid Artist Support Grant, Polaroid Corporation
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Work in Permanent Collections

The American University of Paris
 Brown University Bell Gallery, Providence, RI
 Capital One Financial Corporation
 Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ
 deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA
 Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME
 Eastman Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY
 Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA
 Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington
 High Museum, Atlanta, GA
 The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA
 Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland, ME
 Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL
 The Polaroid Corporation
 Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
 Princeton University Museum of Art, Princeton, NJ
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
 Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia
 University of New England, Portland, ME
 Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

Monographs

- 2025 *[Mongrels of Our Making: The Plastiglomerates of Hawai'i](#)*, 216-page book, 142 color and B+W images, with introduction by Russ Rymer
 George Thompson Publishing, Inc.
- 2022 *[Paris Park Photographs](#)*, bilingual English/French, 120-page book, 52 tritones with an essay by Michelle Kuo
 George Thompson Publishing, Inc.
- 2019 *[L.A. River](#)*, 152-page book of 108 tritone Los Angeles River ambrotypes with essays by D. J. Waldie and Frank Golhke
 George Thompson Publishing, Inc.
- 2016 *[Take Me to the River](#)*, 240-page book of four river portfolios and three essays
 George Thompson Publishing, Inc., Staunton, Virginia
 Nominated for the Aperture Foundation's annual First Photo Book award.

Publications

- 2023 *The Shape of Time*, Ucross Foundation Art Gallery, catalogue
- 2021 *Complex Uncertainties*, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA, catalogue
- 2020 *Museum from Home Series*, Portland Museum of Art, April
- 2019 [Spotlight: Cover Artist Michael Kolster](#), Memorious Issue 28
- 2017 [Take Me to the River](#), BokehBokeh, Berkeley, CA, Fall 2017
- [That Historical Coincidence](#), "Eyes on the South," Oxford American Magazine, April 3
- [Don't Take Pictures, Photo of the Day](#), June 15, Kat Kiernan
- 2016 [Take Me to the River](#), Social Documentary Network, January 2016 Spotlight
- 2015 [River Glass, Boom: A Journal of California](#), Summer, Vol. 5, No. 2,
You Can't Get There From Here, Biennial Catalogue, Portland Museum of Art
[Changing Place](#), The Backstory, Audio Recording, Biennial, Portland Museum of Art
The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes, 3rd Edition, Christopher James
Topsham: From the River to the Highlands, by Robert C. Williams
Maine Photographs: A History (1840-2015), by Bischof, Danly, and Shettleworth, Down East Books
- LA River Ambrotypes, *F-Stop Magazine*, Issue #71, Summer
- 2014 [From the River: Michael Kolster's Handmade Photographs](#), KCET Artbound,
Carren Jao, Nov. 24
- 2012 [Loupe Vol 2, Issue 3](#), Journal of the Photographic Resource Center, Boston
[Memorious Issue18, A Journal of New Verse and Fiction](#)
- 2010 *Consilience – The Journal of Sustainable Development*, Vol. 3, Issue 1, Columbia University
Last Days of the Coliseum, Connecticut Public Television, Richard Hanley, producer
- 2007 *New Orleans Photographs 2005-2006*, catalogue
- 2006 *Four Projects: The Map Room as an Image-Making Device*, catalogue
- 1997 *Photo Review Annual*, Philadelphia, PA
- 1991 *From Here to Now*, commissioned book, Allendale Columbia School, Rochester, NY

Reviews

- 2025 [Healing with Art: Unspoken Resilience](#), Lucy Platt, Maine Home and Design, November
[Art Exhibit Honors Maine's Deaf Community](#), Megan Gray, Portland Press Herald, Oct. 17
- 2022 [Home and Other Realms at UNE](#), Jorge Arango, Portland Press Herald, December 18
- 2019 [Rivers Run Through Us](#), Rachael Flora, Connect Savannah, July
[Michael Kolster's Take Me to the River](#), John Singer, Do Savannah, July 17
[Take Me to the River](#), Rob Hessler, Field Note, Art on the Air, WRUU, July
[Michael Kolster's Take Me to the River](#), Morning Break, WTOG TV, Cyreia Sandlin
- 2018 [Michael Kolster - Take Me to the River](#), PhotoBook Journal, August 18
- 2017 [Take Me to the River Book Review](#), Emma Brown, ZEKE Magazine, Fall Issue
[Take Me to the River Book Review](#), A. Quintenz-Fiedler, Photographer's Forum,
Summer Issue
[Take Me to the River Book Review](#), Blake Andrews, PhotoEye, Santa Fe, March 23
- 2015 [THE PMA BIENNIAL](#), Britta Konau, The Portland Phoenix, November 4
Maine Event: Excellent Art on View in Portland Biennial, S. Smee, The Boston
Globe, Dec 15
Portland Museum of Art's Biennial, D. Kany, Portland (ME) Press-Herald, Oct. 18

- Art Review: The PMA Biennial*, S. Bouchard, The Bollard, Nov 5
Past and Present Perspectives, Britta Konau, The Portland Phoenix, April 1
- 2014 *Take Me to the River: Wet Plate Photography by Michael Kolster*,
 35to220.com, June
- Photos Mirror Images Taken Centuries Ago*, Rob Pavey, Augusta (GA) Chronicle
- 2012 *Shock of the New, Amazing Use of the Old*, Phil Isaacson, Portland Press Herald
Androscoggin Project Gains Attention, Kathryn Skelton, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME
Michael Kolster: Making a Glass Wall, Kevin Logghe, Fotosavant.com, July
Resemblance, Mark Harley, Richmond Arts Review, 14 September
Michael Kolster Explores the James River, FanoftheFan.com, 19 September
New Photography by Michael Kolster, Rebecca Barnabi, Examiner.com, September
Michael Kolster: Still Life, Photographs on Glass, NY Art Beat, July
A River Lost and Found, 207 News Magazine segment, WCSH6 TV, Portland, ME
- 2011 *The Androscoggin Then and Now*, article and video, Kathryn Skelton, Sun Journal
- 2008 *Dwell, n. at Icon*, David Raymond, *Art New England*, June/July
He Points, Shoots, Makes a Point, Philip Isaacson, *Maine Sunday Telegram*, April
- 2006 *Don't Forget New Orleans*, Beth Brogan, *Times Record*, Brunswick, ME, October
comeandsee, Philip Isaacson, *Maine Sunday Telegram*, August
Eye Cartography, Ian Paige, *Portland Phoenix*, July
- 2004 *Multiples at Icon*, Chris Thompson, *Art New England*, June/July
Kolster's Decisiveness, Philip Isaacson, *Maine Sunday Telegram*

Residencies

- 2024 Residency Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, VA
 Residency Fellow, Le Moulin à Nef, Auvillar, France
- 2023 Residency Fellow, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY
- 2018 Artist-in-Residence, The Brooks School, North Andover, MA
- 2017 Artist-in-Residence, The American University of Paris
- 2012 Residency Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, VA
 Art in the Open Philadelphia, Juried Participating Artist
 Visiting Artist, University of Richmond, VA
- 2000 Visiting International Artist, Brasil Em Foco, São Paulo, Brazil

Visiting Artist Lectures

- 2022 Spring Speaker Series, L. L. Bean, Freeport, ME
- 2020 "Horizon Markers: Plastiglomerates in Paradise," 2020 Hawaii International
 Conference on Arts & Humanities, Honolulu
- 2019 Artist Lecture, "Take Me to the River," Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA
- 2018 "Photographic Process - Clarence White" lecture to docents,
 Portland (ME) Museum of Art
 "Clarence White's World," gallery talk, Portland (ME) Museum of Art
 Audio Guide Discussant as part of Clarence White exhibition,
 Portland Museum of Art
- 2017 "Photographers on Photography," gallery talk, Portland Museum of Art, ME

- The Griffin Museum, Winchester, MA
- 2016 Skowhegan History House Museum & Research Center, Skowhegan, Maine
Yarmouth Historical Society, Yarmouth, Maine
- 2015 Panel discussion, Slought Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, *The Redemption of the Schuylkill River*
- “Photography in Focus,” Mellon Workshop, Bowdoin College Museum of Art
- 2014 Artist Lecture, Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia
Artist Lecture, Georgia Regents University, Augusta
- 2013 Gale Memorial Lecture, University of New Mexico School of Art, Albuquerque
- 2012 “The Androscoggin River: Lost and Found,” Hallowell Gallery, Hallowell, ME
“The Androscoggin River: Lost and Found,” Western Maine Audubon, Jay, ME
- 2011 “The Androscoggin River: Lost and Found,” Civic Forum Series, Bates College,
Lewiston, ME
Artist Lecture, University of Richmond, VA
- 2009 Framing Time and Place Conference, University of Plymouth, UK
"New Orleans: Rebuilding an American City," Muskie School for Public Service,
University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME
“Approaching the Big Picture Problem – New Orleans Rebuilds and The Daily
Post,” Allendale Columbia School, Rochester, NY
- 2007 Learning Associate, Bates College, Lewiston, ME
Rockwell Visiting Artist, The Taft School, Watertown, CT
Artist-in-Residence, University of Southern Maine, Gorham, ME

Education

- 1992 M.F.A., Photography, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 1989 Certificate, Documentary Photography (full-time program), ICP, New York City
- 1985 B.A., American Studies, Williams College, Williamstown, MA,
concentration in Math/Computer Science

Professional Experience

- currently Professor of Art, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME
- 2009-2018 Associate Professor of Art, Bowdoin College
- 2001-2009 Assistant Professor of Art, Bowdoin College
- 2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, Bowdoin College
- 1994-2000 Instructor of Photography, Academy of Art College, San Francisco, CA
- 1995-1998 Instructor of Photography, City College of San Francisco
- 1995 Instructor of Photography, UC Extension, San Francisco