

The ultimate fiction of photography is the deep-rooted adage: “the camera does not lie.” From its inception, photographers have had the ability to manipulate reality using a wide variety of techniques from positioning the camera, to processing in the darkroom, or editing on the computer. Even so, the hallmark of photography has been its ability to record the thing directly in front of the camera. The imprint or trace of the object before the lens has led audiences to believe in the objectivity of the photograph. Yet, a more skeptical and savvy 21st Century audience has deconstructed the inherent belief in the veracity of the photograph, resulting in a definition of photography that is incessantly fluid.

With the invention of photography during the 19th Century, painters were challenged into exploring new realms. While photography perfected representation with exactitude, painters sought expressions of truth (or another reality) within the constructed abstracts of the Impressionists, Cubists, and Futurists. In the same way, digital photography and the democratization of the camera have challenged lens-based, photographic artists to venture beyond, using their imaginations to transform or manifest less tangible realities. In the midst of reality television, docudramas, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, web surfing, movies, social media, and the ubiquitous digital manipulation of photographic images, the fine line that once existed between what is real and what is fantasy has all but vanished.

How does one acknowledge the constructed nature of the photograph while still claiming its validity as a tool for the accurate representation of real-life events? Do viewers remain committed to ideological notions of authenticity? What new challenges does photography face? How are lens-based artists pushing boundaries?

Join us for our 53rd National Conference in dazzling Las Vegas, a city filled with imaginary worlds, as we engage in discourse addressing the aspects of myth, fantasy, and reality in photography and deconstruct rhetoric of what constitutes a photograph.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SPE welcomes proposals from member photographers, writers, educators, curators, historians, and professionals from other fields. Topics are not required to be theme-based, and may include but are not limited to, imagemaking, history, contemporary theory and criticism, multidisciplinary approaches, new technologies, effects of media and culture, educational issues, funding, and presentations of work in photography, film, video, performance, and installation.

Eligibility: Current SPE members are eligible to submit one proposal for consideration. Individuals who have presented at two SPE national conferences since 2013 (Chicago) are not eligible. This also applies to co-presenters and/or panelists. To join SPE, visit www.spenational.org.

Presentation Formats:

- **Graduate Student** (20 min) – short presentation of your own artistic work and a brief introduction to your graduate program (must be enrolled in graduate program at time of submission)
- **Imagemaker** (45 min) – presentation on your own artistic work
- **Lecture** (45 min) – presentation on historical topic, theory, or another artist's work
- **Panel Discussion** (90 min) – active discussion among panelists (max 4), moderator and audience to discuss a chosen topic

- **Teaching & Learning** (45 min) – presentations, workshops, demos that addresses educational issues, including teaching resources and strategies (syllabi, videos, assignments, readings, class prep/setup, and PowerPoint presentations); curricula to serve diverse artists and changing student populations; seeking promotion and tenure; avoiding burnout; and professional exchange

Conference Registration / Membership: Accepted presenters are eligible to receive a discounted rate on conference registration. (Co-presenters/panelists for graduate, imagemaker, lecture and teaching & learning presentations are NOT eligible for discounted rates.) Panel discussion format presentations are eligible for up to four discounted registrations (1 moderator and up to 3 panelists). **Current membership is required to participate as a conference presenter, co-presenter, or panelist. Please explain this policy to all individuals you invite to share your program.**

Special Award Details: Applicants to the Imagemaker track will be considered for the SPE Imagemaker Award, a cash award granted to a first-time imagemaker presenter who demonstrates outstanding achievement as determined by the peer review committee. Additionally, Imagemaker Award recipients will be given the opportunity for a one-month residency at PLAYA, in southern Oregon, within the calendar year. Applicants to the lecture track will be considered for the SPE Award for Excellence in Historical, Critical and Theoretical Writing.

The International Conference Grant is awarded to three of the highest-ranked international proposal submissions, regardless of category. This prize offers full conference waiver and complimentary one-year membership.

How to Submit:

- SPE conference proposal submissions are conducted using SlideRoom, an online review system. Applicants must register and submit all required proposal materials on the SlideRoom website using SPE's portal.
- Visit <http://spenational.slideroom.com> and follow the instructions provided.
- Complete the submission form, including contact information (one contact name and email address that matches SPE membership), an abstract detailing the work submitted (500 words max) and a biographical summary for each intended presenter (150 words max).
- Upload media (max of 20 files) – this may include images, video, and audio
- Submit the \$10 fee.

Selection Process: All submissions are reviewed by a 10-member peer review panel, which forwards recommendations to the 2016 conference committee. The National Board's Executive Committee approves the final conference program to assure the broadest representation of concerns in the field. You will be notified by September 1 on the status of your submission.

Submission Deadline:

June 1, 2015, 11:59 pm EDT

Questions? Please direct any inquiries to the SPE National Office at 216-622-2733 or events@spenational.org.

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