PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

California Museum of Photography at UCR ARTSblock presents

**CMP Projects: Penelope Umbrico**
August 29–November 28, 2015

Fall reception: Saturday, November 14, 6–9pm
Free and open to the public

The California Museum of Photography presents a solo installation by New York-based artist Penelope Umbrico. Umbrico’s project *Range* (2013-ongoing) navigates the contemporary vernacular of social media and popular smartphone “app” filters to represent canonical landscape photographs by photography’s twentieth century masters. Umbrico contrasts the historically rooted subjects of the “mountain” and the photographic “master” with the increasing fluidity of photography as a medium and as an extension of quotidian life. Umbrico’s approach raises questions surrounding indexicality, the art historical trope of copying the masters, and the contemporary mediation of images.

This exhibition and others will be celebrated during ARTSblock’s fall reception on Saturday, November 14, 6–9pm. The reception is free and open to the public. ARTSblock will also be open late on Thursday, October 8, 5pm–midnight, as part of the City of Riverside’s Long Night of Arts & Innovation. The event is free and open to the public.

**Penelope Umbrico** (born 1957 in Philadelphia) is a New York-based conceptual artist working with photography and new media. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the International Center of Photography, New York; Justine Barnicke Gallery at University of Toronto; Darling Foundry, Montreal; Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield; and Mark Moore Gallery, Los Angeles. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions including at The Drawing Center, Museum of Modern Art, Creative Time, Aperture Foundation Gallery, and P.S.1., New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art; MassMoCA, Massachusetts; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, among elsewhere. Umbrico’s work resides in the collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and International Center of Photography, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; McNay Museum of Art, San Antonio, and many others. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2011, a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship in 2012, and a residency at Pilchuk Glass School, Washington in 2015. Umbrico earned her MFA at the School of Visual Arts, New York in 1989, and her BA at Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto in 1980.
CMP Projects is an ongoing exhibition series that features photo-based work by contemporary artists. This presentation is curated by Joanna Szupinska-Myers, CMP Curator of Exhibitions, and Kathryn Poindexter, Curatorial Assistant. The series is partially supported with funds provided by UCR’s College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) and the City of Riverside.

Also on view at UCR ARTSblock

Massimiliano Gatti: Passages
Five Projects from Lampedusa, Syria, and Iraq
California Museum of Photography
May 30–September 5, 2015

California Museum of Photography is pleased to host Massimiliano Gatti’s first American exhibition. Gatti’s photographs explore the history of the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and the immigration from North African coasts to Europe, not by reportage, but by a careful, poetic, archeological description that transforms artifacts into metaphor. Gatti’s photographs depict shards, fragments, chips, pieces and particles, the remnants and remains of both necessary and unwanted objects, that attest to human presence and human absence: human industry, creativity, persistence, thoughtlessness, suffering, and tragedy. Their eloquent simplicity interrogates past and present civilizations and references the movements of peoples, armies, immigrants, and refugees across time and across what Gatti refers to as the “extended desert.”

Massimiliano Gatti: Passages is organized by the California Museum of Photography at UCR ARTSblock and is curated by Jonathan Green, ARTSblock Executive Director.

Aaron Siskind: Pleasures and Terrors
California Museum of Photography

Mined from the collection of the California Museum of Photography, Aaron Siskind: Pleasures and Terrors draws from six decades of the seminal artist’s career. Siskind’s photographic beginnings took place in the 1930s as a member of the New York-based Film and Photo League, a socially and politically conscious organization that sought to document urban life in New York in the midst of the Great Depression. Within a decade he would migrate toward a photographic sensibility simultaneously defined as radically abstract and concretely representational. Frequently taking on closed in shots of hand painted signage, politically-fueled graffiti, and weathered urban surfaces as his subject matter, Siskind is most known for his mythic compositions that at times bear a striking resemblance to the work of important twentieth century Abstract Expressionist painters.

Flash! Whitney Hubbs
California Museum of Photography
September 5–November 14, 2015
Flash! contemporary art series presents *Persistent and Falling* (2015), a new work by Los Angeles-based artist Whitney Hubbs. Artist Mark McKnight (UCR MFA 2015) will guest author an original text to accompany the exhibition.

*Flash!* features single works made within the last year. The exhibitions are presented on the third floor of the CMP. *FLASH: Whitney Hubbs* is the tenth exhibition in the series.

**Melanie Nakaue: Eclipses**  
Culver Center of the Arts  
June 27-October 17, 2015

Melanie Nakaue’s *Eclipses* is a multi-channel video installation comprised of a series of experimental animations. Through an amalgamation of collages, digital graphics, and stop-motion animation, Nakaue depicts a disjunction between psychological and physical entities associated with eclipses. For this presentation at the Culver Center of the Arts, the idea of an eclipse is manifested through explorations of physical dimensions associated with layering and shadows. Nakaue unites these elements to illustrate the liminal space of passing between two states of being, consciousness and the unconscious.

*Melanie Nakaue: Eclipses* is organized by UCR ARTSblock and curated by Jennifer Frias, Associate Curator, Sweeney Art Gallery. This presentation was made possible by the generous support of UCR’s College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) and the City of Riverside.

**J no.e Parker: Composing [De]Composition**  
Sweeney Art Gallery  
June 27-October 17, 2015

*J no.e Parker: Composing [De]Composition* joins the seemingly unconnected practices of home composting, data collection, and music composition into a research-based, new media artwork. Parker’s interest in creating integrative works that explore new pathways through interconnections between visual art, sound, music, science, and technology has inspired her to repurpose the Sweeney Art Gallery as an active BioArt research lab, addressing issues such as pollution and environmental sustainability from a localized perspective. Throughout the summer, temperature data, generated by an on-site compost pile, will be collected and translated into a soundscape.

*J no.e Parker: Composing [De]Composition* is organized by UCR ARTSblock and is curated by Tyler Stallings, Artistic Director, Culver Center of the Arts, and Director, Sweeney Art Gallery. This presentation was made possible by the generous support of UCR’s College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) and the City of Riverside. Additional support has been provided by Adrian Freed at UC Berkeley Music Department’s Center for New Music & Audio Technologies (CNMAT); UCR Music Department Professor & Chair Paulo Chagas and Assistant Professor Ian Dicke; UCR Environmental Sciences Department Associate Professor David Crohn; Anas Muzamil; Judith Parker; and David Carter at the UCR Institute for Integrative Genome Biology.
VISITOR INFORMATION AND PRESS INQUIRIES

UCR ARTSblock is located at 3824 & 3834 Main Steet, Riverside, CA 92501, and encompasses three venues: the California Museum of Photography, Culver Center of the Arts, and Sweeney Art Gallery. ARTSBlock is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5pm. Admission is $3, and includes entry to all three venues. Galleries are open late 6-9pm and admission is free during First Thursday ArtWalks, which take place on the first Thursday of every month. Film screenings are held on Fridays and Saturdays in the Culver Theater.

Press contact: artsblockpress@ucr.edu
Public contact: artsblock.ucr.edu

###