EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title: Robert Polidori: Chronophagia

When: May 22–July 24, 2016 in the Grand Gallery

Description: Chronophagia ("the eating of time") features 52 large-scale photographs by Robert Polidori, whose metier is examining built environments altered by human or natural intervention—New Orleans following Katrina, Chernobyl as a post-disaster wasteland, the Middle East devastated by years of warfare, the palace of Versailles undergoing an extended renovation. Usually devoid of human subjects, Polidori's photographs are suffused with human stories waiting to be told.

Credit line: Robert Polidori: Chronophagia is organized by the Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College, from the collection of the artist.

In Rochester, it is sponsored by the Gallery Council of MAG, with support from Mr. and Mrs. William E. Cherry and the Rubens Family Foundation. Additional underwriting is provided by the Herdle-Moore Fund, the Margaret Davis Friedlich and Alan and Sylvia Davis Memorial Fund, the Irving and Essie Germanow Endowment, and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund.

Programs & events: MAG will host a members' preview party on Saturday, May 21, and a lecture by Lisa Hostetler, curator-in-charge at George Eastman Museum, on Thursday, June 23.

Local connections: Robert Polidori received his MFA from SUNY Buffalo in 1980.

The exhibition was curated by Daniel Strong, a former MAG intern who has been associate director and curator of exhibitions at the Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell (IA) College since 1999.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: $14; senior citizens, $10; college students with ID and children 6–18, $5; always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County.

MAG on the web: mag.rochester.edu

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Photos above: 2732 Orleans Avenue, New Orleans, LA, 2005; Samir Geagea headquarters, Beirut, Lebanon, 1994; Maternity ward, Pripyat, Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, Ukraine, 2001. All: Collection of the artist.
NEW MAG EXHIBITION SHOWCASES RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT POLIDORI
54 Large-Scale Photos Examine Built Environments Altered by Human or Natural Intervention


Subtitled Chronophagia (“the eating of time”), the show features 52 large-scale color photographs by Polidori, whose métier is examining built environments that have been altered by human or natural intervention: New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Chernobyl as a post-disaster wasteland, the Middle East devastated by years of warfare, the palace of Versailles undergoing an extended renovation. Usually devoid of human subjects, these photographs are suffused with human stories waiting to be told.

“Where you point the camera is a question,” he says, “and the image you get is a kind of answer.”

Robert Polidori: Chronophagia remains on view through July 24.

About the exhibition
Robert Polidori: Chronophagia is organized by the Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College, from the collection of the artist. In Rochester, it is sponsored by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, with support from Mr. and Mrs. William E. Cherry and the Rubens Family Foundation. Additional underwriting is provided by the Herdle-Moore Fund, the Margaret Davis Friedlich and Alan and Sylvia Davis Memorial Fund, the Irving and Essie Germanow Endowment, and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund.

Robert Polidori: Chronophagia was curated by Daniel Strong, a former MAG intern who has been associate director and curator of exhibitions at the Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell (IA) College since 1999.

About the artist
Robert Polidori was born in Montreal in 1951 and moved to the US as a child. He received his MFA in film from SUNY Buffalo in 1980 and began his career in avant-garde film, assisting Jonas Mekas at the Anthology Film Archives in New York. This experience would critically shape his approach to photography.

While living in Paris in the early 1980s, Polidori began documenting the restoration of the Château de Versailles (pictured is Salles du XIX, Attique du Nord, 1986), and has continued over a 30-year period to photograph the ongoing changes. Additional projects have included Havana, Chernobyl and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

From 1998–2006 Polidori was staff photographer for the New Yorker magazine. Polidori’s work has been exhibited around the world and is in international collections including the George Eastman Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Centre Pompidou in Paris. One of his New Orleans photos was featured at MAG in the centennial exhibition Memory Theatre 2013.

In 2006, two dozen Katrina photos were exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. “Mr. Polidori is a connoisseur of chaos, and the beauty of his pictures—they have a languid, almost underwater beauty—entails locating order in bedlam,” wrote New York Times art critic Michael Kimmelman in his review of the show.

John Updike wrote of the same show in the New York Review of Books: “[Katrina] was mostly just news, like tornadoes in Kansas and mudslides near Malibu, to the rest of us; Polidori’s big prints take us there with a lofty dispassion and even more…
focus. Eerily, no human beings are present in the photographs, so they have the uncanny stillness of Piranesi *carceri*, of Richard Estes’s glittering cityscapes, of Egyptian tombs unsealed after millennia.”

To learn more about the artist, visit [www.robertpolidori.com](http://www.robertpolidori.com).

**Hours / admission**
The Memorial Art Gallery is open Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and Tuesday.

General admission is $14; senior citizens, $10; college students with ID and children 6–18, $5; always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under.

Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County.

**Programs and events**
MAG will host a members’ preview party on Saturday, May 21, and a lecture by Lisa Hostetler, curator-in-charge at George Eastman Museum, on Thursday, June 23. *For detailed information see attached release.*

**Publication**

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April 20, 2016

ROBERT POLIDORI: CHRONOPHAGIA

Programs and Events

MEMBERS' PREVIEW PARTY
Saturday, May 21, 8–11 pm
Free to MAG members, but reservations required; call (585) 276-8939 during business hours or email memberperks@mag.rochester.edu.

Celebrate the exhibition ahead of the crowd with live music and entertainment!

- In the Pavilion, relax to the sounds of vocalist/acoustic guitarist Amy Montrois.
- In the M&T Bank Ballroom, dance the evening away with DJ Michael Buonaccorso of Mobile Music.
- In the Bausch & Lomb Parlor, try your hand at interpretive drawing.
- Enjoy desserts and beverages for purchase from Brown Hound Downtown.

TALK
Thursday, June 23 @ 7 pm / included in MAG admission

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS (included in museum admission)
Sunday, May 22 (opening day), 1, 2 & 3 pm
Fridays and Sundays, May 27–July 1, 1 pm

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