

## Tom Schiff: Surrounded by Art – Panoramic Views of America’s Landmark Museums

The desire to represent the world in an all-encompassing, immersive experience has sparked the creativity of painters and photographers for many centuries. This drive led to the invention of artistic panoramas, which were especially popular during the 19th century in Europe and the United States. Cincinnati-based photographer Tom Schiff utilizes the photographic panorama technique to capture significant civic and cultural buildings with his Cirkut camera, a specialized camera that captures a full 360-degree image.

For years, Schiff has traveled the country taking dynamic exterior and interior photographs of different arts institutions, and, as a result, created a visual catalogue of museums. Through artistic license and deliberate framing, Schiff turns the architecture of landmark American museums into a medium. The works in this exhibition highlight the architectural significance of the building rather than the artworks on display. This approach captures the iconic quality of museum buildings, while highlighting their connections and idiosyncrasies across time and space.

The layout of this exhibition organizes these elongated and sequenced panoramas into four grids. Within the grids, the photographs are arranged left to right, following the chronology of the featured buildings, to highlight stylistic changes over the course of decades. Select photographs are presented large scale to present their immersive artistic quality or their exceptional richness of detail.

This is the first solo exhibition of the artist’s museum panoramas and is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue. Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the CAC exhibition fund, Artswave, and the Ohio Arts Council.