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CPW Opens Renovated Kingston Headquarters with Four New Exhibitions

Leading Photography Non-Profit's New Upstate New York Facility Debuts Four Exhibitions as well as an Expanded Digital Media Lab, Workshop and Lecture Spaces, Visitors' Lounge, and Library

Kingston, NY, January 2025– [CPW](#), an arts non-profit dedicated to engaging audiences and fostering conversation around critical issues in photography, is thrilled to announce that over 2,400 people attended the grand opening of its newly renovated building on January 18, 2025. Located in the midtown arts district of Kingston, a historic city in the heart of the Hudson Valley 90 miles north of New York City, the 47-year-old community-based museum and school has been undergoing a renaissance since relocating from Woodstock in 2022. The opening marks a pivotal moment for CPW as it unveils a state-of-the-art center dedicated to photography and related media. The renovation, directed by the architectural firm [Lopergolo + Bartling Architects](#), represents the first phase in a larger transformation of the 40,000 square foot former cigar factory. In this phase, the first two floors of the factory now house 6,000 square feet of exhibition space, an expanded Digital Media Lab, a theater, workshop spaces, offices, meeting rooms, a visitors' lounge, and CPW's photo library.

The opening celebration featured a lively party and the unveiling of four new exhibitions, each offering unique and powerful perspectives in contemporary photography. Three of these exhibitions are on view through May 4, 2025, while the fourth, showcasing works from an open call for submissions, runs through February 16, 2025.



© Mary Ellen Mark, Courtesy of The Mary Ellen Mark Foundation/Howard Greenberg Gallery. © Colleen Kenyon

The opening exhibitions reflect CPW's origins, explore important cultural and social issues, and highlight creativity within the Kingston community and region:

- **[Mary Ellen Mark: Ward 81](#)**. This iconic 1976 series captures the lives of women in a locked psychiatric ward, demonstrating Mark's empathetic and unflinching approach to complex subjects. Curated by Gaëlle Morel and Kaitlin Booher and accompanied by the book *Ward 81: Voices*, by Mary Ellen Mark and Karen Folger Jacobs, edited by Martin Bell, Julia Bezgin, and Meredith Lue (Steidl, 2023).
- **[My Sister, My Self: Photographs by Colleen Kenyon and Kathleen Kenyon](#)**. A celebration of the photography and art of the Kenyon sisters, who co-directed CPW for nearly twenty-five years. Their work, shaped by their shared identity as twins, spans hand-colored photographs, collages, and collaborative projects. Curated by Tom Wolf and Laurie Dahlberg, and accompanied by a catalog of the same title, published by CPW. Organized by CPW, this retrospective features the Kenyons' most iconic works, and is presented at CPW in Kingston, NY, and at the Kleinert/James Center in Woodstock, NY.
- **[Keisha Scarville: Recess](#)**. The inaugural Saltzman Prize winner's exhibition explores diaspora, loss, and the unfixing of identity and body through striking images and textiles. Curated by Marina Chao and accompanied by a signed, limited-run artist book produced by 1080PRESS in Kingston, NY.
- **[Free, For All](#)**: Featuring over 250 works submitted through an open call during the first two weeks of January 2025, this exhibition is on view in CPW's new Community Gallery. Submissions were so many that CPW plans to hold a second exhibition and opening on February 22 for the remaining 100+ works that arrived during its open call.



© Keisha Scarville. *Shadow Archive (1)*, 2024. Courtesy the artist and Higher Pictures, New York

Brian Wallis, Executive Director of CPW, said, “This is a thrilling step, transforming CPW from a one-room gallery in Woodstock nearly 50 years ago to a cultural anchor for midtown Kingston and the Hudson Valley region. The elegant rehabilitation of our historic building is the result of almost three years of hard work by our dedicated staff, our brilliant architects, our fantastic board and advisory board, and the whole Kingston community. Now, we can better serve our audiences, presenting exciting programs that are both community-focused and globally relevant.”

In its new building, CPW aims to create a model for a community-based, artist-oriented photography and visual arts organization. Founded in Woodstock in 1977, CPW moved to Kingston in 2022 to better serve artists and partner with cultural institutions. The organization purchased the building at 25 Dederick Street in February 2023 and enlisted esteemed architectural firm [Lopergolo + Bartling](#) in 2024 to direct the conversion of the historic, circa 1907 factory. The final phase is set to open in 2027, CPW's 50th anniversary, and will include a new welcome porch and public entry, additional exhibition and community spaces, storage for the collection, a bookstore, a darkroom, café, and a comprehensive building upgrade to meet sustainability goals.



Photos © Eduard Hueber/archphoto

“It’s been incredible working with CPW to realize their vision for a transformed facility in the heart of midtown Kingston,” says **Erin Bartling**, co-founder of Lopergolo + Bartling. “Now that Phase One is completed, 25 Dederick is coming to life with CPW’s impressive caliber of programming. We look forward to continuing our work on Phase Two and the additional opportunities this space will bring to the local community, artists, visitors, and art patrons in just a few short years.”

The renovated space at 25 Dederick Street is set to become a significant cultural hub in Kingston’s evolving arts district, targeted for revitalization in the city’s [2022 Arts & Culture Master Plan](#). The project has already received over \$2 million in New York State funding. The building is conveniently located near Kingston City Hall, Kingston High School, the Empire State Trail, and the recently redesigned Broadway-Grand Street intersection, a key part of Kingston’s business corridor improvements.

Kingston Mayor **Steve Noble** said, “I congratulate CPW on their beautiful space. When the City of Kingston applied for the Restore NY grant on CPW’s behalf, we were honored to support the repurposing of a unique historic structure. This vibrant arts organization is a valuable asset to—and a perfect fit for—Midtown Kingston.”

Funders helping CPW to rehabilitate the building are: Restore NY, Empire State Development, New York State Council on the Arts, Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, Preservation League of New York State, Frankenthaler Foundation, Howard Greenberg, The Gunk Foundation, and CPW’s individual donors.

About CPW

Founded in 1977 as the Center for Photography at Woodstock, [CPW](#) is a not-for-profit arts organization with a dual mission: to support artists working in photography and related media, and to engage audiences through creation, discovery, and learning. At the heart of CPW’s mission is programming that is community-based, artist-centered, and collaborative. To foster public conversation around critical issues in photography, CPW offers exhibitions, workshops, artists’ residencies, and access to its Digital Media Lab. In 2022, CPW relocated from Woodstock to Kingston, NY. In January 2025, CPW opens its newly renovated headquarters – including a photography museum, and an educational and community center – in a 40,000-square-foot factory building at 25 Dederick Street.

Follow CPW on social media: Instagram [@cpw_kingston](#) | Facebook [cpw.kingston](#)
YouTube [@cpw_kingston](#) | X [@cpw_kingston](#)

CPW Kingston

New address: 25 Dederick St, Kingston, NY 12401

Gallery Hours: Thursday to Sunday 11am – 5pm

Free admission

For more information about CPW Kingston programs, visit [cpw.org](#)

Press contacts

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