



PEABODY MUSEUM  
*of* ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Peabody Museum Names Alessandra Sanguinetti as the  
2009 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography**



Untitled, 2004. Photo by Alessandra Sanguinetti.

**(May 20, 2009 Cambridge)** The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology is pleased to announce the selection of the 2009 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography. On April 13, 2009, the Gardner Fellowship committee awarded the Fellowship to Alessandra Sanguinetti, a prize-winning photographer who divides her time between the United States and Argentina. Sanguinetti will be working on a project entitled “The Life That Came.”

Ten years in the making, “The Life That Came” grows out of an earlier project, *The Adventures of Guille and Belinda and the Enigmatic Meaning of Their Dreams*. In 1999, she began photographing two young cousins as they grew up in the remote farmlands outside Buenos Aires. She cultivated a close relationship with the girls over a five-year period, capturing their dreams and desires as their childhood ended, and they became young adults.

Sanguinetti writes, “The Pampas is a mythical space rooted in Argentina’s identity, embraced by a society that celebrates men’s accomplishments, yet rarely acknowledges the lives of women... now the girls will enter not only the adult world they once imagined, but a more complex social one as well.” During her fellowship year, Sanguinetti will focus both on the two girls’ individuality and on



Time flies, 2005. Photo by Alessandra Sanguinetti.

the wider social networks and context in which they live.

Sandra Phillips, Senior Curator of Photography at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, nominated Sanguinetti, writing that “in her more recent work, the girls face psychological and personal challenges as their childhood dreams become the reality of early motherhood and subsistence farming. As in her earlier work, Sanguinetti’s insight lies in her ability to combine everyday experiences with myth.”

Prof. William L. Fash, William and Muriel Seabury Howells Director of the Peabody Museum, says “Alessandra's work has a penetrating yet poetic aspect that is now being recognized broadly across the field of photography. We're very pleased that she'll be building on her previous project in Argentina and

documenting the changes her subjects go through as they move from the rural to the urban context there."

Alessandra Sanguinetti has won many awards and fellowships including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (2000), Hasselblad Foundation grant (2001), Discovery Award from Rencontres D'Arles (2006), MacDowell Fellowship (2007), John Gutmann Photography Fellowship (2008), and a National Geographic Magazine Grant (2009). She is represented in the United States by Yossi Milo Gallery.

### **About the Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography**

The Fellowship funds an "established practitioner of the photographic arts to create and subsequently publish through the Peabody Museum a major book of photographs on the human condition anywhere in the world." The Fellowship committee invites nominations from experts around the world; nominees are reviewed and selected by a committee of three. The Fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000. The fellowship is unique in its dedication to funding professional documentary photography.

The Fellowship was given by Robert Gardner, award-winning documentary filmmaker and author, whose works have entered the permanent canon of non-fiction filmmaking. Gardner's works include the documentary films "Dead Birds" and "Forest of Bliss" and books *Gardens of War* and *A Human Document*. In the 1970s Gardner produced and hosted "Screening Room," a series of more than one hundred 90-minute programs on independent and experimental filmmaking. The series, considered an invaluable historical record of modern cinema, has been transferred to digital format, for archival preservation by the Museum of Film and Broadcasting in New York City. Robert Gardner received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Harvard University, and was director of Harvard's Film Study and Visual Arts Centers from 1957 to 1997. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

### **Earlier Robert Gardner Fellowship Recipients**

2007 Guy Tillim (South Africa). Tillim's Fellowship took him to five African countries, documenting the grand colonial architecture and how it has become part of a contemporary African stage. An exhibition of his Fellowship work, *Avenue Patrice Lumumba*, is at the Peabody Museum through September 7, 2009, and is published in *Avenue Patrice Lumumba* (Peabody Museum Press and Prestel 2009).

2008 Dayanita Singh (India). Singh is currently photographing the India that is slipping through the cracks, unnoticed and uncelebrated, in the rush to keep up, globalize, and westernize. Peabody Museum Press is working with Singh on a publication of her Fellowship work.

### **About the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

**Location:** The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.

**Hours:** 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., seven days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, \$6 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 A.M. to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call 617-496-1027 or go online to: [www.peabody.harvard.edu](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu).

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