



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

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**Peabody Museum Names Chloe Dewe Mathews as the
2014 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography**

(March 10, 2014, Cambridge) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology is pleased to announce the selection of the 2014 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography. Following an international search, the Gardner Fellowship committee awarded the Fellowship to British photographer **Chloe Dewe Mathews**. After completing her degree at the Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford University, and four years in the film industry, she traveled overland from China to Britain, hitchhiking and camping. During that time she shot projects on the Uighur minority in Western China, the returning waters of the Aral Sea, and the Caspian. But it was the Caspian region that captured her, documenting the lives of people who live on its shores and examining their relationship to the resource-rich land on either side of the sea. Since then, the Caspian region and its people have become the subject of a long-term photographic inquiry. Dewe Mathews has returned to the Caspian region several times including Astrakhan, Russia, and Darvaza's burning gas crater in Turkmenistan. During the Fellowship period, Dewe



Mathews will continue to develop this body of work, exploring other areas where people are inextricably linked to rich but volatile lands.

Dewe Mathews is a rising talent; Christopher Morton, Curator of Photographs at Pitt River Museum, Oxford, describes her work as “strikingly original, and a very mature and strong body of work by such a young photographer.” She was identified as one of the top five most promising new artists of 2011 by the *Daily Telegraph*, and another of her projects, focusing on the sites where soldiers were executed for

Historically, the sea has been a buffer between Ottomans, Persians, Mongols and Russians. To me, it represents a vast, aqueous punctuation mark between Asia and Europe, although its identity is—and always has been— hard to define. I think it is this mysterious quality that has drawn me back time and again.

cowardice and desertion during WWI will be displayed at Tate Modern in London this year.

Dewe Mathews is represented by Panos Pictures, and her "Caspian" series has won several awards, including the *British Journal of Photography's* International Photography Award, which included a show at London's Foto8 gallery. Her work has been published in *the Guardian*, the *Sunday Times Magazine* *Le Monde* and *Vision China*, and exhibited in London, Paris, Toronto, and Berlin.

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 four. The Fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000, and 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 *The Impulse to Preserve: Reflections of a Filmmaker* and *Making Dead Birds: Chronicle of a Film*. 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 Paley Center for Media in New York City. Robert Gardner received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Harvard University and was director of the Film Study Center from 1957 to 1997. He was also founder and long-time director of the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts and taught the Visual Arts at Harvard for almost 40 years. Gardner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. His most recent book is *Just Representations* (Peabody Museum Press and Studio7Arts 2010), a collection of Gardner's short prose pieces about film and anthropology. In April 2013, Robert Gardner was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal by the Smithsonian Institution.

Robert Gardner Fellowship Recipients

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

2008 Dayanita Singh (India). Singh's Fellowship work began as a visual diary and later evolved into "photographic fiction." Her Fellowship work was shown in the 2011 Peabody Museum exhibition *House of Love*, and was published in a book of the same name by Peabody Museum Press and Radius Books.

2009 Alessandra Sanguinetti (USA/Argentina). Sanguinetti continued a multi-year profile of two girls living in rural Argentina and their wider social networks for a project called, "The Life That Came."

2010 Stephen Dupont (Australia). Dupont created a study of cultural erosion as well as a celebration of the Melanesian people in *Stephen Dupont: Papua New Guinea Portraits and Diaries*, currently on view in the Peabody Museum. A companion two-volume publication, *Piksa Niugini*, was recently published by Peabody Museum Press and Radius Books.

2011 Miki Kratsman (Israel). Kratsman continued a project begun years ago to create a portfolio of photographs that explore how the medium of photography can be used to turn an

ordinary moment in a person's life into a suspect one. Kratsman presents Palestinians as targets as though viewed from the perspective of a soldier; as *shahids* or martyrs as portrayed on neighborhood posters or placards; and as "wanted men." He also turned his Facebook page into a "bureau" for missing persons to discover the fate of Palestinians he's photographed over the decades. His volume, *The Resolution of the Suspect* (working title), is in preparation.

2013 Yto Barrada (Morocco/France) Barrada is working on "A Hole is to Dig," which engages the complex terrain of paleontology in her native Morocco. Barrada will explore the topic from multiple human perspectives, from scientists, museums, and cultural heritage professionals, to those who collect fossils, and those who plunder and forge them.

About the Peabody Museum

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. 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 \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, \$8 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 entry to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call 617-496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

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To view sample images of Chloe Dewe Mathews previous work: www.chloedewemathews.com