



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

Peabody Museum Names Yto Barrada as the 2013 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography

(May 31, 2013, Cambridge) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology is pleased to announce the selection of the 2013 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography. Following an international search, the Gardner Fellowship committee awarded the Fellowship to French-Moroccan photographer Yto Barrada. Born in Paris, and raised in Morocco and France, Barrada lives and works in Tangier, Morocco. Her work has appeared internationally in exhibitions including Art Dubai, the Tate Gallery (London), the Fowler Museum (Los Angeles), MoMA (New York and San Francisco), Jeu de Paume (Paris) and the 2007 and 2011 Venice Biennale. According to Phillip Prodger, Peabody Essex Museum's Curator of Photography. "Barrada has a gift for finding personal intimate moments that capture the real-life effects of global trade and exchange." Barrada's artistic practice includes



Table d'écolier de la serre, Ferme pédagogique, Tanger, 2011. C-Print, 150 x 150 cm. ©2011 Yto Barrada

photographs, film, sculpture, and print publications, all of which she will create during her fellowship year to complete the project, “A Hole is to Dig.”

For “A Hole is to Dig,” Barrada will engage with the complex terrain of paleontology in her native Morocco. Since *Spinosaurus* (spine lizard), one of the largest carnivorous dinosaurs, was first found in Morocco in 1912, dozens of paleontological expeditions have ventured into the Moroccan desert to explore bones preserved by the dry terrain. Today Morocco is an open site for scientific study, but public fascination with dinosaurs has made them subject to a new breed of predator: plunderers, from small time souvenir collectors to international antiquities thieves. Like other nations, Morocco struggles to protect and preserve its natural history and cultural heritage from the vast illicit market for antiquities of all types. Barrada will explore multiple human perspectives, from scientists, museums, and cultural heritage professionals, to those who collect fossils, and those who plunder and forge them.

“My interest was first triggered by the sale of a Moroccan Spinosaurus at a big European auction house. I didn’t realize what a rich topic it was until I started digging around paleontology. I discovered this whole space between minerals and plants; between contemporary economics and prehistory; between history and geography; between art and science.”

—Yto Barrada

From Yto Barrada and Eyal Weizman, “Bones of Contention” *Parkett* 91(2012), p. 164

Yto Barrada: Selected Honors and Works

Honors and Awards

2011 Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year

2006 Recipient Ellen Auerbach Scholarship, Akademie der Kunst, Berlin

Finalist for Deutsche Borse Prize

Nominee Rolex Award

Publications

Album Cinémathèque de Tanger, Librairie des Colonnes, Tangier, 2012 (with Cinémathèque de Tanger)

Artist of the Year: Yto Barrada. RIFFS, Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern, 2011. Contributors: Okwui Enwezor, Friedhelm Hütte, Marie Muracciole, Daniel Soutif, Pierre de Weck, Interview by Negar Azimi

A Guide to Trees for Governors and Gardeners, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, 2011

Yto Barrada, Nadia Tazi, *A Life Full of Holes – The Strait Project*, Autograph ABP, London, in association with Photoworks (Brighton), Mead Gallery (Warwick), and Witte de With (Rotterdam), 2005

Yto Barrada, Anaïs Masson, Maxence Rifflet, *Fais un fils et jett- le à la mer*, Edition Stéphane Place, Paris, 2004

Lost and Found Bureau (Objets Trouvés), Artist book, Paris, 2003

Estrangulo a su esposa, RomanPhoto, Artist book, 1998

Film

HandMeDowns, 2011. Film, video, 16mm and 8mm transferred to digital, color, sound, 15'

Playground, 2010. Film, 16mm transferred to digital, 3 channels color, silent, 21'

Beau geste, 2009. Film, 16mm transferred to digital, color, sound, 3'

The Botanist, 2007. Film, video, color, sound, 20'

La contrebandière (The Smuggler), 2005. Film, video, color, mute, 18'

Le magicien (The Magician), 2003. Film, video, color, sound, 18'

Website: <http://www.ytobarrada.com>

Yto Barrada is represented by [Galerie Polaris](#) in Paris.

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.

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.

Media Contact: For additional information or images, please contact Pamela Gerardi, Deputy Director, Curatorial Administration and Outreach. Tel: (617) 496-0099, gerardi@fas.harvard.edu

To view sample images from Yto Barrada's previous work, [click here](#).