



**UNIVERSITY MUSEUM  
OF CONTEMPORARY ART**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SPRINGFIELD: THE CITY INTERSECTED**

**A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF DAVID GOLDBLATT**

April 25 – May 1, 2011

Opening Reception April 25, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

In January, the eminent South African photographer David Goldblatt made a special trip to Springfield to meet with a group of high school students. He was at UMass for the opening of his exhibition, *Intersections Intersected*, on view through May 1<sup>st</sup> at the University Museum of Contemporary Art (UMCA).

Goldblatt showed selected images he had taken over his fifty-year career as a documentary photographer. Goldblatt explained, "I wanted to document what was going on around me, to show through pictures of everyday life how all of us, white and black, were dehumanized by this terrible system of apartheid." For most of the students, his stories and photographs of landscapes and daily life in South Africa were a first introduction to that country's diverse population and brutal history of apartheid.

"This was an incredible opportunity to learn from an internationally recognized photographer," said High School of Commerce art teacher Yvette Morin. Two years ago, Morin began an after-school photography club at Commerce with help from Dave Modzelewski and Lani Giguere, members of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, who collected used cameras and found equipment to set up a dark room in her class. By the time Morin's students met with Goldblatt, they had begun developing black and white film and printing both black and white and digital pictures.

In addition to Morin's club, Melissa Alves' advanced photography class at Central High, and an after-school group from the art program at The Springfield Renaissance School led by Michael Gillane came to hear Goldblatt's talk and later visited his exhibition at the UMCA in the UMass Fine Arts Center.

Award-winning local writer and photographer Julius Lester also showed the students images from his youthful travels as an organizer with SNCC (the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) in the segregated South during the Civil Rights movement as well as some of his more recent studies.

“When I take pictures, I look for beauty,” Lester told the students, “but what I see may not appear beautiful to somebody else. Find what moves you, what is beautiful to you, and take that picture. No one else can see the world the way you do.”

Inspired by the two outstanding photographers and guided by their teachers and the volunteers from Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, the students set out with cameras to explore familiar neighborhoods of Springfield with fresh eyes.

A collection of their photographs, *Springfield: The City Intersected* will go on view in the UMCA gallery on April 25<sup>th</sup> along with the Goldblatt exhibition. The public is invited to attend the opening reception on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30. The students’ photographs will be shown through May 1 during regular museum hours.

This project was supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the UMass/ Springfield Partnership, Western Mass Center for Healthy Communities, Mass Career Development Institute, Springfield Schools Art Department, Canson Paper, Trish Capro, and many other individuals who have given generously of their time and advice.

Museum Hours:        Tuesday – Friday, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Saturday/Sunday 2 – 5 PM  
                                 Closed Mondays and holidays

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