

HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION

November 5, 2020

The Hall Family Foundation would like to thank Keith Davis for his long-term devoted service to building the Photography Collection of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. On November 1st, Keith resigned from the Hall Family Foundation and the unique role he has played in guiding the Foundation's purchases of photography and curation of this collection that he has loved so much.

Davis joined Hallmark in August 1979 to become curator of the Hallmark Photographic Collection, which at that time included 650 works by 35 artists. Under Keith's direction, the collection grew to 6,500 works by nearly 900 artists at the time Hallmark transferred its collection to the Nelson-Atkins in December 2005.

Since that time, Davis led the further development of this collection that now contains over 15,000 images and is regarded as one of the finest collections of photography in the country.

The Hall Family Foundation has purchased and contributed more than 5,900 images for the collection and is very appreciative of the role Davis has played in acquiring these images, staging 38 exhibitions of the Hallmark Photographic Collection from 1985 through 2005 and 45 exhibitions from 2006 through 2019 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Keith authored 22 books and catalogs on behalf of this collection. He has also actively encouraged broad support of this collection through the generous support of those interested in building on this collection for everyone in our community to enjoy.

"I would like to express the Nelson-Atkins Museum's deep gratitude to the Hall Family Foundation for its generous commitment to growing the collection over the years and especially for Keith's stewardship of this remarkable collection," said Julian Zugazagoitia, director and CEO of the Nelson-Atkins Museum. "Keith should feel tremendous pride for the legacy he has helped to build."

The Hall Family Foundation remains committed to the future of the Nelson-Atkins Museum and has a profound interest in supporting the photo collection's evolution.

"We have great confidence that the Nelson-Atkins will continue to build on the legacy of this photography collection," said Mayra Aguirre, president of the Hall Family Foundation. "The Hall Family Foundation looks forward to continuing its long-standing support of this unique and special photography collection."