



**Contact: Jerry Beck 978-937-2787**  
The Revolving Museum  
22 Shattuck Street Lowell, MA. 01852  
[www.revolvingmuseum.org](http://www.revolvingmuseum.org)

**For Immediate Release**

**April 3, 2004**

**NEW PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT “BOUNDARIES TO BRIDGES”  
INVITES YOU INTO THE  
LIVES AND HOMES OF NEW IMMIGRANTS**

Exhibit on View May 9 – September 12, 2004  
Opening Celebration & Benefit: Saturday, May 8, 2004, 6-9 p.m.

*Featured Artists:*

**Ahmed Abdalla • Ronald Weldon Cowie with Lowell High School students • Lorrinda Colucci with Lowell High School Students • Jim Higgins and Anna Isaak-Ross • Meghan Kriegel • Dana Salvo • Brianne Stepney**

LOWELL, MA -- Come into the homes and lives of the Northeast's newest immigrants through the eyes of some of the region's leading artists. A new show of affecting photographs invites visitors to enter this intimate world, usually closed from view. Part documentation, part interpretation, the photos in the Revolving Museum's exhibit *Boundaries to Bridges* explore what happens to culture, family, bias and stereotypes when these communities settle amongst one another and into the rapidly-evolving city of Lowell, MA.

“Here in Lowell, new communities sprout daily,” notes Revolving Museum artistic director Jerry Beck. “This installation both celebrates their arrival and explores their racial, economic and social challenges.”

Lowell has long been a destination city for immigrants and refugees. According to the 2000 Census, 22 percent Lowell's population is foreign-born, which is about twice the Massachusetts and national averages.<sup>1</sup> This exhibition documents the traditional and contemporary lifestyles of Southeast Asian, Latino, Indian, and African people as well as Lowell's artist community. The project intends to combat bias, stereotypes, bigotry, and racism by turning the cultural boundaries between people into bridges.

Visitors can reach the Museum easily by car or train, just 45 minutes from downtown Boston.

The idea for the exhibit grew out of conversations with Gloucester artist **Dana Salvo**, who is renowned nationally for work that explores artistic expression in homes and other domestic interiors in Vietnam, India, Mexico, and beyond. In *Boundaries to Bridges*, Salvo will present photographs and objects that document people through their personal environments. Salvo regularly exhibits in group and one-person shows across the nation. His work resides in collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, has been published in two books, among others, and has been repeatedly recognized with awards from John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Also in the exhibit, **Ahmed Abdalla** constructs a traditional architectural form called “The Tower of Pigeons,” native to the Delta area of Egypt where he was born. The complex structure works as a metaphor for peace and a connection to the environment. Abdalla has exhibited in Egypt, the Netherlands and Taiwan, along with the Northeast.

**Ronald Weldon Cowie** collaborated with **Lowell High School students** to create an installation focused on the students’ issues of personal identity. Through portraits and snapshots of their school environment mixed with hand-written text, the work investigates the psychological territory of how they see themselves, how they feel they are seen by others, and how the school environment influences their future. Cowie is a Boston-based photographer.

**Jim Higgins** and **Anna Isaak-Ross** focus on Southeast Asians through the lens of the basketball court. They found that this sports environment sets out the major issues of assimilation outside and inside the home for both the teens who play and for their families. By placing a hoop at either end of the Museum’s gallery within a grid of photos that juxtapose home and court life, they explore acculturation and difference amid Cambodians and other recent Southeast Asian arrivals. Higgins is a photographer and filmmaker known for chronicling the city’s Cambodian population.

**Meghan Kriegel** investigates Lowell’s new class of immigrants: cultural immigrants, the artists who are moving in to the city whose motto is “Art is the Handmaid of Human Good.” Literally and figuratively stripping her subjects to their interactions with “home”, she explores what it means for them to move into this community, and how they transform it as they do so. She mounts her photos on and in bureau drawers in a way that brings the sense of home across cultural lines. A recent transplant to Lowell herself, Kriegel exhibits throughout Massachusetts.

**Brianne Stepney** is an aspiring photographer who graduated from Lowell High School in 2003 and is a first year student at the Art Institute of Boston. Her installation, titled “2:05,” is about the life of downtown Lowell teenagers just after school lets out for the day. Stepney is the recipient of numerous awards including honorable mentions in the International Library of Photography and Canon Photography Contest, and first prize in the Lowell Sun Photography Contest.

*Boundaries to Bridges* marks the first-ever photography-based show for the Revolving Museum. It is supported in part by the Dana M. Greeley Foundation for Peace & Justice, Kraft Foods, Lowell Cultural Council, and City of Lowell.

\* \* \* **PHOTOS AND ARTIST INTERVIEWS** \* \* \*  
\* \* \* **AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST** \* \* \*

#### **ABOUT THE REVOLVING MUSEUM:**

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The Revolving Museum is an artist-run, non-profit organization. It is dedicated to innovation in creating public art projects, exhibitions, and educational programs that invite collaboration among artists, youth and community members of all backgrounds, ages and abilities. For 20 years, the Museum was based in Boston; in 2002, it moved to downtown Lowell, where it contributes to the city’s extraordinary rebirth. The Museum features a main gallery space, art garden and gallery shop, and it will soon add experimental presentation space, workshop areas, and artist studios next door. It presents public art all over Lowell’s downtown and workshops throughout the region. The Museum’s public hours are Thursday-Sunday, noon – 4pm. Gallery admission is \$3; \$2, Students/Seniors; Members and children under 5 are free. Outdoor public art can be enjoyed at any time, for free. From Boston, the Museum is only 45 minutes by car or North Station train. **For more information, please call (978) YES.ARTS (978.937.2787) or visit [www.revolvingmuseum.org](http://www.revolvingmuseum.org)**

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<sup>i</sup> From “A Profile Of The Foreign-Born In Lowell, Massachusetts,” October 2003, Prepared By The Urban Institute For The Building The New American Community Project.