

DAVIS MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPHY CURATOR ILEANA SELEJAN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN MAJOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL PROJECT



WELLESLEY, Mass. – Ileana Selejan, The Linda Wyatt Gruber '66 Curatorial Fellow in Photography at the Davis Museum at Wellesley College, has been accepted into a major European Research Council (ERC) funded project, ***Citizens of Photography: The Camera and the Political Imagination***, as a Research Associate.

The three-year project will explore the relationship between photographic self-representation and different societies' understandings of what is politically possible. Selejan will contribute a monograph, a chapter for a collection of essays, and an exhibition, all on the topic of photography and the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. Ileana's last day at the Davis Museum will be November 30, 2016.

Professor Christopher Pinney from the Anthropology Department at University College London, will oversee the project. His six-person team will conduct field-research in Nicaragua, Nigeria, Greece, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. "We are delighted to have secured a scholar with the outstanding skills and accomplishments of Dr. Selejan," said Pinney. "She will be a vital part of this prestigious EU Advanced Grant research."

During her tenure at the Davis Museum, Selejan curated several exhibitions, including ***Measuring the World: Photography, Geography and Description***, and culminating with ***Charlotte Brooks at LOOK, 1951-1971***—which has been reviewed widely, including features in *The Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, *Allure*, and *Time* magazine, with forthcoming pieces in *The Economist* and *Art in America*. As a core member of the Davis curatorial team, Selejan surveyed the photography holdings, taught classes, led gallery talks and tours, trained students, and guided new acquisitions to expand and enrich the collection.

"During her nearly three years at the Davis Museum, Ileana's contributions have been instrumental to the growth of and new scholarship on the photography collection," said Dr. Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum at Wellesley College. "I am so pleased and proud to announce this award, which promises great things for Ileana in the

future. The program here at the Davis, supported by the visionary generosity of Linda Wyatt Gruber, Wellesley Class of 1966, is now in its second iteration and, as I promised Linda, will continue to launch a new generation of photography curators into the field with the confidence and skill born of exceptional museum experience. Dr. Mazie Harris, our first Gruber Fellow, went on to a position as Assistant Curator at the Getty, and Dr. Selejan, only the second to benefit from this extraordinary opportunity, now goes on to the ***Citizens of Photography: The Camera and the Political Imagination*** project—through which she will surely prove to be exceptionally successful. I expect great things from her!”

About the Project: *Citizens of Photography: The Camera and the Political Imagination*

Detailed ethnographic fieldwork will study how local communities use photography to represent individuals, families and other identities and explore whether, and how, this plays a role in the manner in which people articulate their political hopes and demands. More information on the project is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/204497_en.html

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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Image: *Ileana Selejan*, photographed by Sarah Xu, Davis Museum at Wellesley College

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request