



2026 Aperture Gala
Thursday, November 5
6:30 p.m.

at the American Museum of Natural History
200 Central Park West, New York City

APERTURE TO HONOR DEANA LAWSON AND HIROSHI SUGIMOTO AT THE 2026 GALA

New York, October 19, 2026—Aperture will host its annual Gala on Thursday, November 5, honoring acclaimed photographers **Deana Lawson** and **Hiroshi Sugimoto**. The 2026 Aperture Gala is presented by luxury travel brand **Belmond** (LVMH).

This year's celebration takes place at the American Museum of Natural History, in the heart of the Upper West Side, where Aperture opened its new permanent home at 380 Columbus Avenue on September 18, 2026.

As part of the event, live and silent auctions will take place. The silent auction will feature artwork by more than a dozen artists who have been closely intertwined with Aperture's publishing history, including Dawoud Bey, Lee Friedlander, and Justine Kurland. The live auction will feature lots, including a gelatin-silver print by Hiroshi Sugimoto, *Orpheum, California*, from his renowned *Theaters* series; a one-of-a-kind photograph from Richard Learoyd's *Flowers* series; an unprecedented opportunity to sit for a commissioned portrait by Tina Barney, whose *Fashion* monograph (Aperture, 2026) was just released; a night aboard Belmond's legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, traveling from Venice to Paris; and a private artist-led tour of *Taryn Simon | Father Country I Do Love You* on view at the Guggenheim Museum.

As Aperture's most significant fundraising event of the year, the Gala provides vital support of Aperture's programming and publications, and celebrates the mission to create insight, community, and understanding through photography. The 2026 Gala comes at a pivotal moment in the publisher's seventy-four-year history and stands as a testament to the spirit of community that anchors and inspires Aperture's work.

Deana Lawson is one of the most influential photographers of her generation. In meticulously staged portraiture, assemblages, and otherworldly holograms, Lawson has created a visionary language to contemplate identity and ritual, establishing a body of work where lived and imaginary experiences blur and interpretations are never fixed. Lawson guest edited *Aperture*'s Fall 2024 issue, "Arrhythmic Mythic Ra," which refracts themes of family, social history, and the astrophysical through past and contemporary photography. Her work is the subject of the acclaimed *Deana Lawson: An Aperture Monograph* (2018) and is featured in *Aperture Loves New York*, the inaugural installation at Aperture's new home, on view through November 1, 2026.

Across a six-decade career, **Hiroshi Sugimoto** has redefined the metaphysical possibilities of the still image. Through photography, architecture, sculpture, and performance, he has continuously probed the limits of perception and time in formally rigorous, experimental projects such as *Seascapes* or *Theaters*, his landmark series of long-exposure

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Press contact:

Lauren Van Natten
Aperture
publicity@aperture.org

Aperture

380 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10024
T +1 212.505.5555
aperture.org

black-and-white photographs. Soon after his arrival in New York, in 1974, he began *Dioramas* (1975–ongoing), his first photographic series: large-format images of the habitat dioramas at the American Museum of Natural History. Sugimoto is the guest editor of *Aperture*’s Fall 2026 issue, “Stop Time.”

Tickets are available through Bowen & CO. at 914.231.6180 or aperture@bowenandco.com.

For more information, visit aperture.org.

About Aperture

Aperture is a nonprofit publisher that leads conversations around photography worldwide. From our new home at 380 Columbus Avenue in New York, Aperture connects global audiences and supports artists through our acclaimed quarterly magazine, books, exhibitions, digital platforms, public programs, limited-edition prints, and awards. Established in 1952 to advance “creative thinking, significantly expressed in words and photographs,” Aperture champions photography’s vital role in nurturing curiosity and encouraging a more just, tolerant society.

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Press contact:

Lauren Van Natten
Aperture
publicity@aperture.org

Aperture

380 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10024
T +1 212.505.5555
aperture.org

Aperture’s programs and operations are made possible by the generosity of our board of trustees, our members, and other individuals, and with major support from Bobby Campbell Charitable Fund, Coach, David Dechman and Michel Mercure, Susan and Thomas Dunn, FotoFocus, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Celso M. Gonzalez-Falla, William Talbot Hillman Foundation, Joy of Giving Something, Anne Levy Charitable Trust, Mailman Foundation, Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, James McKinney, Richard and Ronay Menschel, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Robert Motherwell and Renate Ponsold, Neuberger Berman, New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Ms. Eliot Nolen of the Mary P. Oenslager Foundation Fund, Yesim and Dusty Philip, Theodore and Mary Jo Shen, Diane Sherman, Michael W. Sonnenfeldt/MUUS Collection, Jon Stryker and Slobodan Randjelović, Jane Smith Turner Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Wyeth Foundation for American Art.