

Contact: Amy Schreiber
Executive Assistant for Advancement and Administration
260. 422. 6467, ext. 334
Schreiber@fwmoa.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kirsty Mitchell's Magical Wonderland Comes to Fort Wayne Museum of Art
Photography exhibition by internationally-acclaimed artist opens June 2**

[Fort Wayne, IN] – Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition *Wonderland: Photographs by Kirsty Mitchell*, on view from June 2-September 2, 2018.

Kirsty Mitchell is an award-winning fine art photographer from Surrey, England. Between 2009 and 2014, she created a deeply personal photographic series titled *Wonderland*, dedicated in memory to her mother, Maureen, who had passed away from a brain tumor in 2008. Mitchell began the project as an escape from reality and as a way of coping with her grief.

Inspired by her mother's passion for fairy tales and literature, Mitchell handcrafted elaborate costumes and props to compose and then photograph astonishingly beautiful, fantastical scenes in the lush English landscape surrounding her home. She collaborated with models and hair and make-up artist Elbie Van Eeden to bring her story's characters to life. Mitchell calls herself "an artist with a camera," rather than a photographer, as a single image may take up to several months to create before releasing the shutter.

Within months of the series' inception, *Wonderland* quickly gained a world-wide following as viewers became connected to the artworks and the intense emotions that inspired them. What had started as a small summer project in Mitchell's kitchen in 2009 evolved into a life-changing journey filled with extraordinary theatrical characters and bursting with all the colors of the passing English seasons. The artist's five-year project culminated in the extraordinary book *Wonderland*, which documents all seventy-four photographs in the collection and is now in its second edition.

Featuring a selection of large-scale photographs accompanied by films documenting the artist's creative process, this is the first U.S. traveling exhibition devoted to the internationally acclaimed *Wonderland* series. On June 2 at 2:15pm, a guided tour of the exhibition will be offered by a FWMoA curator. The tour is free with museum admission.

Wonderland: Photographs by Kirsty Mitchell is organized by the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in partnership with the artist. The presentation of this work at FWMoA is supported in part by a grant from the AAUW Fort Wayne Trust.

For more information, please visit www.fwmoa.org.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into the leading visual arts institution in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts a permanent collection including works by Mark di Suvero, Andy Warhol, and Kara Walker. The FWMoA is committed to the collection, preservation, and presentation of American and related art to engage and educate broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is funded in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

###