

4000 Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46208
t 317-923-1331
f 317-931-1978
www.imamuseum.org



April 28, 2017

David C. & Sarajeun Ruttenberg Arts Foundation
1101 W. Monroe Street
Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Mr. Buzz and Mr. Biff Ruttenberg,

In 2015, the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) acquired 11 exemplary photographs by Brett Weston. In an effort to display part of the IMA's less-frequently shown photography collection, the IMA has planned *Finding Abstraction in Nature*, an exhibition presenting Weston's photographs alongside 10-15 works by his contemporaries and father, the celebrated Edward Weston.

Brett Weston and his contemporaries, including Ansel Adams, Harry Callahan, and Aaron Siskind comprised the first generation of art photographers to see real success within their lifetimes as photography became increasingly recognized as an artistic medium during the mid-twentieth century. They worked at the intersection of representation and abstraction of the natural world by capturing images in a way that emphasized their formal qualities, first and foremost, over recognizable subject matter. These artists, in pursuit of such specific aesthetics, were highly skilled technicians who mastered the complex processes of using a camera and darkroom to create gelatin silver prints.

The planned exhibition will showcase the masterful photography of Weston and his contemporaries, and is slated for presentation from June 2018 to March 2019. It will serve to reintroduce the delicate nuances of film photography to a digital generation, including a didactic section explaining the steps involved in creating a gelatin silver print. By presenting the unification of aesthetics, science, and the natural world in a cohesive set of images, this exhibition speaks directly to the IMA's mission to "enrich lives through exceptional experiences with art and nature."

I write to request permission to submit a full proposal for a grant of [REDACTED] in support of this exhibition.

Correspondence related to this request should be directed to:

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles L. Venable".

Charles L. Venable, Ph.D.
The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO