

# North Dakota Museum of Art

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## **Museum Photography Exhibition, *The History of the Future***

Please join us for an opening reception for the current exhibition, *The History of the Future*, and gallery talk by one of the artists, Michael Berman on Wednesday, June 10, at the North Dakota Museum of Art. Among other topics, Berman will speak about his work and how immigration will shape and has shaped the future. The reception will immediately follow a book signing for Brian Paulsen at 7 pm.

*The History of the Future / La historia del futuro* exhibition is a collaboration of work among three artists, Michael Berman, Julian Cardona and Charles Bowden. The focus of the collection is the culturally, politically, and environmentally complex region between the US and Mexico border.

Michael Berman's photography captures the silence and specter of the regions of Northern Mexico, Arizona, and New Mexico, while Julian Cardona's images focus on the lives of people who are often at the mercy of this tumultuous region. Charles Bowden has been an outspoken advocate of the Southwest desert through his writing since the 1970s.

Michael Berman was born in New York City in 1956. He studied biology at Colorado College and received an MFA in photography from Arizona State University. He settled in southwestern New Mexico where he now lives in the Mimbres Valley near San Lorenzo. His photographs are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Amon Carter Museum and the Museum of New Mexico among others. Michael Berman is a 2008 recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

According to Berman, "There is something tricky to my biography...I work in a cycle...where I photograph for a few years...print images...and then use the photographs in installations and drawings. You will probably catch the cycle of life and death...it seems to me to be the big one, and worth attention. What this means is most of my work is ephemeral and has a complexity innate to the work...but hard to pin down in Biographies. What drives me is a simple question - What is the purpose of the things I make - that is - What is the purpose of art."

Julian Cardona was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and lives in Juarez. He is a self-taught photographer who has published works in the newspapers *El Fronterizo* and *El Dario de Juarez*. Cardona's work has appeared in the book *Juarez: Laboratory of the Future*, *Harper's* magazine and in *Aperture No. 159*, "Camera of Dirt." In 2004, Cardona received the Cultural Freedom Fellowship awarded by the Lannan Foundation of Santa Fe. His work about immigration was on exhibition at the CUE Art Gallery, in New York City in October 2005.

Charles Bowden received a B.A. in History from the University of Arizona, and an M.A. in American Intellectual History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Bowden is a contributing editor to *Esquire* and also writes for other magazines such as *Harper's* and *The New York Times Book Review*. University of Texas Press is publishing the trilogy, *The History of the Future*. The first volume *Inferno*, 2006, with photographs by Michael Berman won the Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Award and an Honorable Mention for the 2007 Orion Magazine. Bowden's other honors and awards include a 1979 Guggenheim Fellowship, a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, a Sidney Hillman Foundation Award, the Infinity Award for Best Photographic Book from the International Center for Photography and several Lannan Foundation awards and fellowships.

The North Dakota Museum of Art is located on Centennial Drive on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. Museum hours are weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm and weekends from 1 to 5 pm. The Museum shop is open during Museum hours. The Museum Café is open from 10 am to 4 pm, with lunch served from 11 am to 2 pm.