

PRESS RELEASE

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Curator nominates 2014 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography

The Museum's Curator of Photographs, Dr. Chris Morton, has successfully nominated photographer Chloe Dewe Mathews to the prestigious \$50,000 Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography at the Peabody Museum, Harvard University.

After completing her degree at the Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford University, and four years in the film industry, Dewe Mathews travelled overland from China to Britain, hitchhiking and camping. During that time she shot projects on the Uighur minority in Western China, the returning waters of the Aral Sea, and the Caspian.

Dewe Mathews is a rising talent; Dr. Morton describes her work as “strikingly original ... a very mature and strong body of work by such a young photographer.” She was identified as one of the top five most promising new artists of 2011 by the *Daily Telegraph*, and another of her projects, focusing on the sites where soldiers were executed for cowardice and desertion during WWI, will be displayed at Tate Modern in London this year.

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Notes for Editors

- Dr. Chris Morton is responsible for the Pitt Rivers Museum's extensive photograph, manuscript, film and sound collections. He teaches on the Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology MSc/MPhil, the MSc in African Studies, and supervises research students working on photographic topics. Outside of the School of Anthropology, Chris is a Senior Research Fellow of Linacre College, Oxford, and Chair of the Royal Anthropological Institute's photographic committee. He has published extensively in the area of photography, anthropology and history, and the return of collections of photographs to indigenous communities in Africa and Australia.
- The Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography funds an “established practitioner of the photographic arts to create and subsequently publish through the Peabody Museum a major book of photographs on the human condition anywhere in the world.” The Fellowship committee invites nominations from experts around the world; nominees are reviewed and selected by a committee of four. The Fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000, and is unique in its dedication to funding professional

documentary photography. The Fellowship was given by Robert Gardner, award-winning documentary filmmaker and author, whose works have entered the permanent canon of non-fiction filmmaking. Gardner's works include the documentary films 'Dead Birds' and 'Forest of Bliss' and books 'The Impulse to Preserve: Reflections of a Filmmaker' and 'Making Dead Birds: Chronicle of a Film'. In the 1970s Gardner produced and hosted "Screening Room," a series of more than one hundred 90-minute programs on independent and experimental filmmaking. The series, considered an invaluable historical record of modern cinema, has been transferred to digital format for archival preservation by The Paley Center for Media in New York City. Robert Gardner received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Harvard University and was director of the Film Study Center from 1957 to 1997. He was also founder and long-time director of the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts and taught Visual Arts at Harvard for almost 40 years. Gardner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. His most recent book is 'Just Representations' (Peabody Museum Press and Studio7Arts 2010), a collection of Gardner's short prose pieces about film and anthropology. In April 2013, Robert Gardner was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal by the Smithsonian Institution.

- The Pitt Rivers Museum is one of Oxford's most popular attractions, famous for its period atmosphere and outstanding collections from many cultures around the world, past and present. Admission, exhibitions and events are FREE.
- The Pitt Rivers Museum was founded in 1884 when General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his personal collection of 20,000 items to the University on condition that a museum was built to house the material, and that a post was created to lecture in anthropology. Today the collection numbers some 600,000 items, and the Museum remains an active department of Oxford University doing and supporting research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology.

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