

News Release

For Immediate Release

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University of Denver preserves Soviet-era photography archive *Digital archiving and preservation of items, due for completion March 2008, sets standards for speed and technical process*

DENVER—Faculty, staff and students at the University of Denver are now engaged in a complex digital archiving effort to be completed by March 2008. The Semyon Fridlyand Archive includes black & white and color film and glass plate negatives. Approximately one quarter of the images are in large and medium formats; the balance are 35mm negatives, along with vintage and period prints of many images taken by the Soviet-era photographer during his lifetime (1906–1964). The archive will be preserved and made available to the public in three stages: i) inventorying, scanning and storing all items within a nine month timeframe; ii) an exhibition and catalog at the Victoria H. Myhren Gallery; and iii) an on-line repository containing the images and metadata hosted by the University.

As an institution interested in and committed to the preservation of significant photographic collections, the University of Denver is developing capabilities for presenting works and disseminating information efficiently and comprehensively. The Fridlyand Archive project is conducted by the University of Denver with support from Russ and Cathy Dalbey and the Dalbey Education Institute.

Fridlyand, an idealistic young Jewish photographer who later became photo editor of *Ogonyok* (the Soviet Union's version of *Life* magazine), built his career documenting the emergence of Soviet society. His archive remained with his family in Moscow for four decades until it came to the United States in 2005. It is now housed at the University of Denver, where it is being inventoried and prepared for scanning and cataloging. The archiving process and digitization will be completed by March 2008. An online repository will launch at that time, providing searchable access to the archive, and serving the international community of researchers as well as the general public interested in photography and Soviet history.

Also launching in March 2008 is "*On the Road: Photography of the Soviet Empire*," the first major exhibition dedicated to Fridlyand's work. This premiere exhibition of images from the Fridlyand archive is co-curated by Dan Jacobs, director of the Myhren Gallery, and Professor David Shneer, director of the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver. The exhibition will be accompanied by a 72-page catalog edited and written by Shneer and Jacobs and containing more than 50 B&W and color images. Exhibition dates are March 6, 2008–May 4, 2008. The exhibition opens with a public reception, Thursday, March 6, 5–8 p.m. "*On the Road*" is a joint project of the Victoria H. Myhren Gallery and the Center for Judaic Studies, University of Denver.

During his 40-year career, Fridlyand photographed every major theme in official Soviet history, from industrialization and collectivization, to the building of a Soviet empire stretching from the Pacific to the Baltic, and from the Arctic to the Black Sea. Fridlyand also covered the battlefields of WWII, the subject of David Shneer's forthcoming book *Through Soviet Jewish Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust*, to be published in 2009.

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The University of Denver (www.du.edu), the oldest private university in the Rocky Mountain region, enrolls approximately 11,117 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs. The Carnegie Foundation classifies the University of Denver as a Research University with high research activity.

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