

**BLOOD AND HONEY, RON HAVIV'S PHOTOJOURNAL OF THE YUGOSLAV CONFLICT,
TO BE PRESENTED AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM**

**Part of the Museum's Photojournalism Series Examining Global Conflicts,
Haviv's Images Document Europe's Unthinkable, Post-Cold War Horrors**

Worcester, MA—June 8, 2016—For more than a decade, photojournalist Ron Haviv documented the civil wars that tore apart the Balkans, beginning with the Slovenian withdrawal from Yugoslavia in 1991. Now, as the migrant crisis in Europe once more brings the Balkans back into the news, the Worcester Art Museum will present an exhibition of original works titled *Blood and Honey*, drawn from Haviv's book of the same name. Organized by the Museum in collaboration with the artist, this is the fourth and final exhibition in a series that explores the work of photojournalists documenting areas of conflict—and the impact of conflict on both civilians and soldiers alike—as part of the Museum's larger *Knights!* installation, which presents arms and armor in both an art historical and social context. *Blood and Honey* opens today and will continue through the close of *Knights!* on November 6, 2016.

Haviv's photographs presented the Balkan conflicts to the world with clarity and candor, tracking the escalation of the Yugoslav civil war from loosely organized militias with small weapons to the eventual deployment of tanks and heavy weaponry on all sides. His images also document the devastation the wars brought to the people of the region: ethnic cleansing, mass incarceration, and forced starvation; a massive refugee crisis; war crimes at a staggering scale; and more than 130,000 deaths. Haviv's photos capture the sense of loss by civilians who returned to ruined homes and shattered families, and the terror of those who would not return home—along with soldiers whose faces reveal fear, defiance, or triumph. *Blood and Honey* presents nine of Haviv's photographs, along with a video Haviv made about his work in Yugoslavia.

"Ron Haviv's photographs from this period are deeply moving, reminding us of a conflict that at the time many considered unthinkable, and yet is all too relevant today," said Jon Seydl, the Museum's director of curatorial affairs and the curator of the exhibition. "This series of exhibitions is an example of what museums like ours do best, drawing on works of art and art history to engage audiences in thinking about both the present and the past, and bridging cultural differences in ways that only art can."

The former Yugoslavia imploded in 1991, at the end of the Cold War and only seven years after the country had hosted the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. Almost immediately, ancient ethnic identities, long suppressed by the Yugoslav state, re-emerged. Spurred by the remains of the Yugoslav army under the leadership of Serbian nationalists, new separatist movements took hold across the former Yugoslavia, bringing conflict to the entire region and creating new states and enclaves that, in turn, used ethnic cleansing to rid each area of perceived outsiders. While the Yugoslav wars ended in a series of negotiated settlements starting with the Dayton Accords in 1995, other conflicts—such as the one between the Kosovars and Serbians—lingered for many years more.

Born in 1965 in New York State, Ron Haviv is well known for his photojournalism and documentation of conflicts around the world. In addition to his work in the Balkans, he has also photographed: the city of Juárez, Mexico, exploring the ongoing devastation of the drug war; the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti; malnutrition in Bangladesh; clashes between Los Angeles gangs and police forces; the 2009 Afghan presidential elections; the

Sri Lankan Civil War; and the war in Darfur. In addition to having his photos published in news outlets around the world—including *Fortune*, *Le Monde*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Paris Match*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, and *Time*—Haviv has been featured in numerous gallery and museum exhibitions.

A graduate of New York University, Haviv is one of seven co-founders of VII Photo Agency, formed in 2001.

About the Worcester Art Museum

Founded in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum's encyclopedic 38,000-piece collection covers 51 centuries of art. Highlights include the Medieval Chapter House, Renaissance Court, and Worcester Hunt Mosaic, as well as the recently integrated John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection of arms and armor. The Museum is internationally known for its collection of European and American art. It was the first in America to acquire paintings by Monet and Gauguin and one of the first to collect photography. As the first U.S. museum to focus on collaborating with local schools, it has been at the forefront of engaging audiences and giving them a meaningful and personal experience.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and every third Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, and \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under four are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit worcesterart.org.

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