

July 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MoCP

Museum of
Contemporary Photography

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
600 South Michigan Avenue Chicago IL 60605
312-663-5554 Fax 312-344-8067
mocp@colum.edu www.mocp.org

***Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai
and Its Contemporary Material Culture***

September 25 – December 23, 2009

Work by:

Olivo Barbieri
Birdhead (Song Tao and Ji Weiyu)
Isidro Blasco
Mathieu Borysevicz
Cao Fei
David Cotterrell
Hu Yang
Jin Shan
Sylvie Levey
Liu Gang
Lu Yuanming

Ma Liang
Shi Guorui
Shu Haolun
Speedism (Julian Friedauer and Pieterjan
Ginckels)
Su Chang
Xu Jianrong and Xu Xixian
Xu Zhen
Yang Fudong
Zhou Xiaohu
Zhu Feng

Chicago — *Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai and Its Contemporary Material Culture* examines the city of Shanghai and its development into one of the global economy's top cities in the new millennium. Shanghai is known for its impressive population growth, the increasingly rapid rate of its cultural and environmental transformations, and the tension between Western and traditional Chinese values, lifestyle, and work habits. In addition, the city is caught in between a not-so-distant communism and a late-arriving capitalism, between a world founded upon its labor force and the world of new technologies. Within this environment, the role of the artist becomes ever-important as artists look to interpret the experience of inhabiting a city and a time that is in the process of defining itself, struggling between the contradictory natures of its past, present and future. The participating artists in this exhibition take various approaches in capturing a city that from day to day seems to transform before our eyes.

Reversed Images is divided into three thematic areas. The first looks at the romantic notions of Shanghai's past and how it flourished as a center of commerce for trade between the east and west. The second theme examines the city's shift from past to present and Shanghai's

development into a hyper-modern city with an explosion of new construction. The third and final theme explores how Chinese artists are interpreting their role in Shanghai, living within a contradictory environment that imposes limitations of self-expression but is beginning to see restrictions on artistic expression lifted. The exhibition not only includes artists working within the photographic medium, but also features architects, urban planners, and graphic designers. *Reversed Images* also includes *40+4: Art is not enough! Not Enough!*, a multimedia installation featuring video interviews with Shanghai artists.

Reversed Images is curated by guest curator Davide Quadrio (founder of BizArt, Shanghai and Arthub, Hong Kong/Bangkok), in collaboration with Natasha Egan, Associate Director and Curator of the MoCP.

Reversed Images is part of Columbia College Chicago's campus-wide programming initiative, Focus: China. For more information on Focus: China events, visit http://www.colum.edu/Administrative_offices/Academic_Research/Focus_China.php

RELATED EVENTS

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, September 24, 5 – 7 pm

LECTURE: Olivo Barbieri

Thursday, September 24, 6:30 pm

Ferguson Lecture Hall

600 S. Michigan Ave., 1st Floor

Exhibiting artist Olivo Barbieri is recognized for his innovative aerial photography techniques used to document urban environments. This program is presented in conjunction with the Columbia College Photography Department's Lectures in Photography series.

SYMPOSIUM: Gender, Identity and the Crossing of Cultures in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media

September 25, 2009 6pm-8pm

September 26, 2009 9am-12:30pm

Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th Floor

This two-day symposium will offer artist presentations and scholarly papers that explore gender in contemporary Chinese art, globalization of the art discourse, and the hybridism of cultures. Organized by Elena Valussi, and presented by the Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences; the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media; and the MoCP.

Participating presenters include Qiu Anxiong, Olivo Barbieri, Natasha Egan, Paola Iovene, Fang Ling-an, Wu Hung, Davide Quadrio, Julie Walsh, Dan Wang, Peggy Wang, and Sasha Welland.

CONCURRING EXHIBITION: *Shanghype!*

September 27 – December 13, 2009

Opening Reception: September 27, 2009 3-5pm

Hyde Park Art Center: hydeparkart.org

In conjunction with *Reversed Images*, a video exhibition organized by Davide Quadrio and Dan S. Wang will present videos by Olivo Barbieri, Mathieu Borysevicz, Bu Hua, Cao Fei, David Cotterrell, D-fuse, Pierre Giner, Jin Shan, Qiu Anxiong, Song Tao, Speedism, Sun Xun, Tang Maohong, Xu Zhen, Yang Fudong, Yang Zhenzhong, Zhang Ding, and Zhou Xiaohu.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION WITH FILMMAKER ROBERT ADANTO: *The Rising Tide*

October 1st, 7 pm

Ferguson Lecture Hall

600 S. Michigan Ave., 1st Floor

The Rising Tide examines China's economic and cultural metamorphosis through the work of some of the country's most talented video artists and photographers, including the internationally recognized Cao Fei, Xu Zhen, Wang Qingsong, Chen Qiulin, O Zhang, Yang Yong, and Birdhead. Robert Adanto will introduce the film and answer questions following the screening.

MoCP SPONSORS

The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs of the MoCP are sponsored in part by the; After School Matters; the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; the National Endowment for the Arts; U.S. Bank; The Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; American Airlines, the official airline of the MoCP; and our members.

Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai and Its Contemporary Material Culture is supported in part by grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

ABOUT MOCP

The Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), a resident organization of Columbia College Chicago, is the only museum in the Midwest with an exclusive commitment to the medium of photography. By presenting projects and exhibitions that embrace a wide range of contemporary aesthetics and technologies, the MoCP strives to communicate the value and significance of photographic images as expressions of human thought, imagination, and creativity.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Davide Quadrio, guest curator for *Reversed Images*, managed BizArt Art Centre in Shanghai (www.biyiart.com), the first nonprofit and independent creative lab in China. Following BizArt, he created Arthub (arthubasia.org) in 2007, a platform to support artistic endeavors in Asia. Davide has organized numerous exhibitions, educational activities and exchanges in China and abroad, developing relationships with local and foreign institutions worldwide. He has lectured at Leiden University in the Netherlands, La Sapienza in Italy, and the Academy of Fine Arts of Seoul in Korea.

Natasha Egan, the museum's Associate Director and Curator, has organized dozens of international and national exhibitions and has contributed essays to numerous publications and magazines. In addition, she teaches in the photography and humanities departments at Columbia College Chicago, where she leads the College's annual J-Term study trip to Shanghai.

PRESS CONTACTS

Audrey Michelle Mast
Web/PR/Marketing Administrator
Museum of Contemporary Photography
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
P: 773.459.5777
F: 312.344.8067
audrey.m.mast@gmail.com

Jeffrey Arnett
Manager of Development and Marketing
Museum of Contemporary Photography
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
P: 312.344.7779
F: 312.344-8067
jarnett@colum.edu

IMAGES:

Yang Fudong, *Honey #3*, Courtesy Shanghart, Shanghai