

March 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MoCP
Museum of
Contemporary Photography

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
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Talkin' Back: Chicago Youth Respond
April 8-17, 2010

Opening reception, Thursday, April 7, 2011
5-7 pm

Chicago, IL — On April 8, 2011 the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) and the Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP) at Columbia College Chicago will open *Talkin' Back: Chicago Youth Respond*, an annual exhibition of photography and creative writing currently in its eighth year.

This exhibition brings together work from students from six different Chicago schools and communities who, with guidance from professional photographers and writers, create photographs and text that express their diverse ideas about landscape, place, and identity. The students' photographs and writing are intermixed and installed along a single horizon line drawn on the gallery's walls, evoking the commonalities, connections, and points of disjuncture between multiple, often-segregated communities across the city.

In a strong model of interdisciplinary learning, students work with inspiration from traditions exemplified by American photographers in the collection of the MoCP. Strengthened by ideas from literature, cultural history, and poetry, students explore the ever-shifting and fluid boundaries of community and identity.

Talkin' Back began 8 years ago as a conversation about text and image among photographers and writers working in programs sponsored by the MoCP and CCAP. Today it continues as a partnership between CCAP's nationally recognized arts integration program Project AIM (Arts Integration Mentorship) and the MoCP's Picture Me program. Project AIM partners teaching artists with public school teachers in Chicago to create arts-integrated curriculum that promotes reading, writing, and math through the arts. The Picture Me program teaches Chicago teens professional photography skills that enable them to both express themselves creatively and further their academic and career goals.

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 Museum strives to communicate the value and significance of photographic images as expressions of human thought, imagination, and creativity.

The Museum is free and open to the public:

Monday through Saturday, 10am – 5pm

Thursday, 10am – 8pm

Sunday, 12 – 5pm

ABOUT CCAP

Since 1998, the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) at Columbia College Chicago has been transforming the lives of thousands of Chicago's young people through its unique approach to college-community partnership building. Founded on a mission to link the academic departments of Columbia College Chicago with diverse communities throughout the city, CCAP brings the concepts of community-based learning, arts-integrated curricula and reciprocal partnerships into the spotlight. It unites artists, educators, students, corporations, schools and community-based organizations to form meaningful, sustainable partnerships in the arts.

EXHIBITION SPONSORS

The Arts Integration Mentorship Project (Project AIM) is supported in part by the U.S. Department of Education Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination program, National Endowment for the Arts, Chicago Public Schools, the Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust, Crown Family Philanthropies, Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Leo S. Guthman Fund, JCCC Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Kraft Foods, Polk Bros. Foundation, Terra Foundation for American Art, and an anonymous foundation. Special thanks to Columbia College Chicago.

The Museum of Contemporary Photography's Picture Me program is sponsored in part by After School Matters, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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IMAGE:

Leslie Mancera (Juarez Community Academy)
Untitled, 2011
Courtesy of the artist