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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MoCP

Museum of
Contemporary Photography

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TEENAGERS REFLECT ON IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN NEW EXHIBITION AT MOCP

Chicago Public School students in the acclaimed arts education programs at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships and the Museum of Contemporary Photography construct eloquent public and private narratives through writing and photography

Talkin' Back: Chicago Youth Respond
May 27- June 20, 2010

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 27, 2010 5-7pm

Chicago, IL — On May 27, 2010, the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) and the Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP) at Columbia College Chicago opens *Talkin' Back: Chicago Youth Respond*, its seventh annual exhibition of photography and creative writing. This exhibit showcases the work of Chicago youth who respond to major issues and ideas impacting our communities with riveting personal reflection and aesthetic expression.

Talkin' Back began six 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. Picture Me teaches Chicago teens professional photography skills that enable them to examine their lives and communities, express themselves creatively, and further their academic, and career goals.

"*Talkin' Back* serves as a model for what can be accomplished when college-based urban institutions like MoCP and CCAP share their vast resources—their faculty, visiting artists, exhibition spaces and the artworks and books in their archives—with the community," says MoCP Education Manager Corinne Rose.

This exhibition features work by students at Curie Metropolitan High School, Herzl Elementary School, Juarez Community Academy, Murphy Elementary School, Senn High School, and Thurgood Marshall Middle School.

Among the projects on display is a collaborative installation, *1000 Words/1000 Pictures*, that creates a collective voice of words and images gathered from the two hundred youth participants from schools throughout Chicago. Students will take 1000 snapshots interpreting the theme of *Fact/Faith*. This theme originates from Columbia College's Critical Encounters series, an annual program that provides teaching and learning opportunities and critical discussion on social and political issues among Columbia's diverse staff, students and community partners. Chicago youth will add their voice to this discussion through the 1000-picture installation. Participating students will also generate 1000 descriptive words in response to the photograph *Washington, DC*, 1983 by Lee Friedlander, from the MoCP's Permanent Collection.

"The *Talkin' Back* exhibition is an inspiring opportunity for students to work with professional photographers and writers, and produce work for a very public and professional exhibition. Through this partnership, students of diverse cultural backgrounds, age groups and neighborhoods, are assured that when they "talk back," there is an audience of adults at a premier arts college that will listen and respond," says Cynthia Weiss, CCAP's Associate Director of School Partnerships/Project AIM.

Students, artists and educators will be present at the opening reception on April 23, 2009 from 5-7pm to celebrate and answer questions about the work. Spoken word artists will also perform at this dynamic art opening event.

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–Saturday 10am to 5pm; Thursday until 8pm, and Sunday noon to 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

Project AIM at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships Columbia College Chicago is supported in part by the U.S. Department of Education Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination program, Chicago Public Schools, The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Kraft Foods, the Polk Bros. Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art. The Museum of Contemporary Photography's Picture Me program is sponsored in part by After School Matters, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

PRESS REQUESTS

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