1. Chicago Reader, 2. 25. 2005
2. Chicago RedStreak, 1. 27. 2005
3. Chicago Sun Times, 1. 7. 2005
We Are What We Own

Exhibits at the MCA and the Museum of Contemporary Photography examine how what we amass affects who we become and what we see.

By Janice Glaudin
Digging diversity

Chicago celebrates African-American history with unique events
Diverse photographs build sense of ‘Self’

BY MISHA DAVENPORT
Museum Pieces

The photographers featured in the exhibit opening Monday at the Museum of Contemporary Photography may focus on different subject matter and come from different parts of the world, but their lenses all capture a profound look at our collective sense of individual identity.

“Manufacturing Self,” in the lower gallery of the museum at 600 S. Michigan, features works from 13 photographers. The themes of identity, consumerism and social class resonate throughout the exhibit.

Of particular note is Peter Menzel’s collection of photographs showcasing families in front of their homes with all of their possessions placed around them. Also of interest are Walead Beshty’s colorfully curious “The Phenomenology of Shopping, 2001-2003,” featuring a man seemingly disappearing into a rack of brightly colored ties and Brian Ulrich’s print of the American Girl Store depicting an overwhelmed girl.

“Manufactured Self” at the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan. Hours are Monday-Wednesday and Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday noon to 5 p.m. through March 5. Free. Call (773) 685-0400 or mcp.org.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT: Ancient Mesopotamia, literally “the land between the rivers,” is the subject of the documentary “Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River,” showing Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th St. Shot on location in Iraq, the film examines the vital role the waterways played in the ancient city of Carchemish. Admission is free. Call (773) 702-9514. http://ia.uchicago.edu.

ODD TO THE CORN COBS: The twin-piller buildings of Marina City are one of the most famous