

July 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



# MoCP

Museum of  
**Contemporary Photography**

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO  
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**RELATED EVENTS:**

***Reversed Images* Opening Reception**

**Thursday, September 24, 5 - 7pm at MoCP**

Please join us for a reception celebrating the opening of *Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai and Its Contemporary Material Culture*.

**FILM SCREENING: *The Rising Tide***

**Thursday, October 1, 7pm @ MoCP**

Acclaimed documentary *The Rising Tide* investigates China's meteoric march toward the future through the work of some of its most talented emerging artists, Filmmaker Robert Adanto will be present at the screening for a Q&A session.

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

**September 25 – December 23, 2009**

**Work by:**

Olivo Barbieri  
Birdhead (Song Tao, Ji Weiyu)  
Isidro Blasco  
Mathieu Borysevicz  
Su Chang  
David Cotterrell  
Cao Fei  
Zhu Feng  
Yang Fudong  
Shi Guorui

Xu Jianrong and Xu Xixian  
Sylvie Levey (film)  
Shu Haolun (film)  
Ma Liang  
Jin Shan  
Speedism (Julian Friedauer and Pieterjan Ginckels)  
Zhou Xiaohu  
Hu Yang  
Lu Yuanming  
Xu Zhen

**Special Project:** 40+4, Art is not enough! Not Enough! or the Making of the Arts in Shanghai ('80's-2008). Artists interviews

**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 includes artists working not only within the photographic medium but also architects, urban planners, and graphic designers.

*Reversed Images* is curated by guest curator Davide Quadrio (founder BizArt, Shanghai and Arthub, Hong Kong/Bangkok), in collaboration with Natasha Egan, Associate Director 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](http://www.colum.edu/Administrative_offices/Academic_Research/Focus_China.php)

#### **MoCP SPONSORS**

The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs of the MoCP are sponsored in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services; After School Matters; the Lannan Foundation; 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 a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

#### **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.

#### **ABOUT THE CURATORS**

**Davide Quadrio**, guest curator for *Reversed Images*, managed BizArt Art Centre in Shanghai ([www.biyiart.com](http://www.biyiart.com)), the first non-profit and independent creative lab in China. Following BizArt, Davide created Arthub ([arthubasia.org](http://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 department at Columbia College Chicago, where she leads the College's annual J-Term study trip to Shanghai, and juries local and national exhibitions.

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**IMAGES:**

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