

press
release

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digital images available upon request

WAM
weisman art museum

Documenting China

Contemporary Photography and Social Change

Exhibition dates: September 8–November 25, 2007
Reception: Friday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.



Zhou Hai
Hebi, Henan
1999

Documenting China: Contemporary Photography and Social Change presents an insider's view of the dramatic impact, due to recent unparalleled growth, on the landscape, individuals, and culture of China. Featuring 57 color and black-and-white images by Chinese photographers Liu Xiaodi, Jiang Jian, Zhang Xinmin, Luo Yongjin, Zhou Hai, Lu Yuanmin and Zhou Min, the exhibit represents a historical phenomenon with global ramifications.

Until the 1970s, three quarters of China's population lived in rural areas, maintaining traditional agrarian lifestyles. Today, people are on the move. Cities are growing rapidly as the entire nation industrializes, urbanizes, modernizes, and digitizes its infrastructure. The transition from isolationist nation to international powerhouse, however, has not been easy. While many Western nations have endured similar changes over the last 200 years, modernization in China has occurred in a relative instant, moving workers from fields to factories and from the country to the cities in a matter of a few decades. Each photographer in **Documenting China** represents a unique view of this monumental transition.

Programs accompanying the Weisman exhibit include a lecture with **Documenting China** curator Gu Zheng and a discussion series exploring social, economic, ecological, and artistic aspects of China's transformation. See attached program list. An illustrated exhibition catalogue by curator Gu Zheng will be available at the Weisman Art Museum.

Credit Information:

Presented by the Weisman Art Museum, **Documenting China** was developed by Bates College Museum of Art in Lewiston, Maine, and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The national tour has been made possible through the support of Crystal Cruises. Major support for the Weisman's presentation is provided by Ameriprise Financial.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

(continued)

RELATED PROGRAMS

Documenting China: Contemporary Photography and Social Change

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, September 14, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10/\$5 WAM members, students, and seniors

To RSVP, call 612-626-4747.

LECTURE

Between the Document and Memory: Visual Representation and Social Change

Gu Zheng, Professor at Fudan University in Shanghai and curator of Documenting China

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.

NOONTIME DISCUSSION SERIES

China Now at Noon

Bring a lunch and the Weisman will provide beverages. Appetizers will be provided courtesy of Rainbow Chinese Restaurant.

Change in China and its Impact on Higher Education

Yongwei Zhang, Director of the China Center at the University of Minnesota

Thursday, September 27, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Made in China

Seth Werner, Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota

Thursday, October 4, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Women in Modern China: From Golden Lotus to Iron Maiden to Supermodel

Wang Ping, Associate Professor of English at Macalester College, and photographer

Thursday, October 18, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Contemporary Chinese Art in the Global Spotlight

Doryun Chong, Walker Art Center curator

Thursday, November 1, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Documenting Shanghai as an Insider and Outsider: A Personal Scrapbook

Jamason Chen, Minneapolis-based photographer, videographer, and new media researcher

Thursday, November 8, Noon–1:00 p.m.

COMPLEAT SCHOLAR CLASS

Documenting China: Contemporary Photography and Social Change

Carol Brash

Thursdays: October 25, November 1, November 8

\$125 fee. To register, call 612-624-4000 or go to www.cce.umn.edu/scholars.

General museum information:

The Weisman is located at 333 E. River Road in Minneapolis. Museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday: 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Public Parking is available in the museum ramp for the posted rates. There is no admission fee to the Weisman. For more information, please visit www.weisman.umn.edu or call 612-625-9494.