

press  
release

333 east river road  
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for immediate release

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WAMM  
weisman art museum

## Weisman Art Museum exhibition *Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power* presents five major photographic series

Exhibition dates: February 9–April 20, 2008  
Preview party: Friday, February 8, 8:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.

Paul Shambroom, who lives and works in Minneapolis, has made an indelible mark on the landscapes of photography and political discourse. His series-based color photographs reveal both local and global manifestations of power, depicting scenes in industrial, business, community, and military environments. The exhibition **Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power** is the first to bring together selections from all five of Shambroom's most important—and highly acclaimed—series to date: *Factories* (1986-1988), *Offices* (1989-1990), *Nuclear Weapons* (1992-2001), *Meetings* (1999-2003), and *Security* (2004-current). This Weisman-produced exhibition will premiere locally before traveling to the Columbus Museum of Art, the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, and the University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach.

In the late 1980s, Shambroom created images of manufacturing sites and office spaces where many Americans spend the majority of their day, from gritty industrial factories, to immaculate biotech labs and empty office cubicles. For his next series, Shambroom gained access to long-restricted nuclear sites, where he produced eerie images of slumbering bombs and immaculate, empty war rooms. For *Meetings*, Shambroom traveled to municipal meetings in small communities as far flung as Bernice, Louisiana and Baltic, South Dakota, to document public officials in a formal portrait style. His most recent work documents security training at facilities across the country. In this series, past and future, reality and fiction, blur as each figure creates a picture of threat and resistance in our post-9/11 age.

While diverse in subject matter, Shambroom's series all record and demystify secret and little-seen loci of power. His images are remarkable both for their stark portrayal of such places, and as evidence of his access to the sites. Negotiating this access in an open and democratic manner is a hallmark of Shambroom's practice.

### Credit information:

The traveling exhibition, **Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power**, is organized by lead curator Diane Mullin (Weisman Art Museum) and cocurators Christopher Scoates (University Art Museum, CSU, Long Beach) and Helena Reckitt (The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto). A new, fully illustrated catalogue featuring essays by the exhibition curators and scholar Dick Hebdige and an interview with the artist by Stuart Horodner accompanies this exhibition. Significant support for this exhibition and catalogue is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

(continued)

**PREVIEW PARTY  
PAUL SHAMBROOM: PICTURING POWER**

Friday, February 8, 2008, 8:00–11:00 p.m.

Explore the exhibition and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, libations, music, and performance by Skewed Visions. A specialty cocktail is provided courtesy of Big Top Liquors.

Weisman members are invited to the preview party for **Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power**.

**Member price:**

\$20 per person (current Individual and Dual level members)

FREE for members at the Sustainer level and above

**Non-member price:**

\$30 per student for event admission and Student level membership

\$40 per person for event admission and Individual level membership

\$60 per couple for event admission and Dual level membership

RSVP at 612-625-4460 by February 4, 2008 or email [joinwam@umn.edu](mailto:joinwam@umn.edu).

**General museum information:**

The Weisman is located at 333 E. River Road in Minneapolis. There is no admission fee to the Weisman, and it is open to the public 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. The Museum is closed on Mondays. Public Parking is available in the museum ramp and in the East River Parkway ramp for the posted rates. For more information, please visit [www.weisman.umn.edu](http://www.weisman.umn.edu) or call 612-625-9494.

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weisman art museum

## RELATED PROGRAMS

### PAUL SHAMBROOM: PICTURING POWER

Programs (except for the Preview Party) are free.

Friday, February 8, 8:00–11:00 p.m.

#### **PREVIEW PARTY**

See ticket details previous page or at [www.weisman.umn.edu](http://www.weisman.umn.edu)

Sunday, February 10, 2:00 p.m.

#### **THE ARTIST IN A DEMOCRACY**

Dialogue with photographers Paul Shambroom and Vince Leo

Thursday, February 21, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

#### **FACE TO FACE WITH DR. STRANGELOVE**

Film clips, pizza, and discussion with anthropology professor Michael Wilson

Thursday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

#### **LABORING OVER IT: THE WORK OF ART AND THE WORK OF DEMOCRACY**

Lecture by Diane Mullin, curator of **Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power**

Thursday, March 6, Noon

#### **NEED TO KNOW: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

Gallery talk with journalism faculty Christopher Ison and Jane Kirtley

Thursday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. program followed by reception

#### **THE THEATER OF SECURITY**

Lecture by Bruce Schneier, author of *Beyond Fear: Thinking Sensibly about Security in an Uncertain World*

Saturday, March 29, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

#### **REPRESENT! CIVIC VIDEOS BY AREA YOUTH**

Screenings and discussion

Thursday, April 10, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

#### **CITIZENSHIP 101**

Workshop and pizza party for U of M students

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. program followed by reception

#### **HOW TO SAVE DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Lecture by Harry Boyte, founder and co-director, Center for Democracy and Citizenship, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

## PAUL SHAMBROOM: PICTURING POWER

February 9–April 20, 2008

Digital images available upon request.

Contact Emily Foxen at wampr@umn.edu or call 612-626-5241.



### IMAGE CREDITS

#### top row, from **Factories, Offices, Nuclear Weapons** series:

Paul Shambroom, *Control Data Corporation, Bloomington, Minnesota (computer disk drives)*, 1986, pigmented inkjet on paper

Paul Shambroom, *General Mills, Inc. (#5), Golden Valley, Minnesota*, 1989, color coupler print

Paul Shambroom, *B83 one-megaton nuclear gravity bombs in Weapons Storage Area, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana*, 1995, color coupler print

#### bottom row, from **Meetings and Security** series:

Paul Shambroom, *Lee, New Hampshire (population 4,145) Board of Selectmen, January 27, 2003*, 2003, Left to Right: Dwight Barney (Chairman), Joseph Ford, Richard Wellington, archival pigmented inkjet on canvas with varnish

Paul Shambroom, *Level A Hazmat suit, yellow ("Disaster City" National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, Texas Engineering and Extension Service [TEEX], College Station, Texas)*, 2004, pigmented inkjet on canvas with varnish