

## PRESS RELEASE

...a citywide celebration with  
145 exhibitions of photo-based art

## FOTOFEST2008 – CHINA

March 7 – April 20, 2008 Houston, Texas



### For Information and Visuals:

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AN Hong, *Water Buddha*, 1997  
Courtesy of Three Shadow Photographic Arts Centre

[www.fotofest.org](http://www.fotofest.org)

(FEBRUARY 12, 2008) All Houston art museums and 107 other spaces are celebrating photo-based art with FOTOFEST2008-CHINA, the Twelfth International Biennial of Photography and Photo-related Art, **March 7 – April 20, 2008** in Houston, Texas.

Alongside FotoFest's 10 exhibitions on **Photography from China 1934-2008**, 19 other spaces are hosting China-related exhibits and events. Eighty other spaces are working with the Biennial's ancillary theme **Transformations**. Others are mounting shows independent of the two themes.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) is hosting FotoFest's public symposium on 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese photography and a China film series. The symposium features two noted Chinese scholars and curators: **GU Zheng**, author/curator/scholar on Chinese photography at Fudan University in Shanghai, will speak on contemporary Chinese photography and **CAI Tao**, curator of contemporary art and photography at Guangdong Museum of Art in Guangzhou, will speak on historical Chinese photography. The symposium takes place Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 7-8:30pm at MFAH. Admission is free.

The MFAH is presenting three new exhibitions for FOTOFEST2008 with exhibits by contemporary Japanese photographer **Miwa Yanagi**, the 20<sup>th</sup> century modernist master **Bill Brandt** (1904-1974), and the documents of renowned photo-historian **Beaumont Newhall** (1908-1993). Ms. Yanagi's three distinct series, *Elevator Girls*, *My Grandmothers* and *Fairy Tales*, confront and disrupt traditional perceptions of women. The Bill Brandt retrospective offers 50 prints, primarily from the MFAH collection, with examples from each of Mr. Brandt's major series. A celebration of the life and work of Beaumont Newhall marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of this historian, curator, museum director, photographer, collector, critic, educator, mentor, and friend to many in the photographic world. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org)

Four other Houston museums are showing a wide range of conceptual and issue-based work. Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston, presents a new exhibition of Chantal Akerman, widely regarded as one of the most important woman directors in film history. The exhibition presents five major works by the artist including a new project commissioned especially for the exhibition, January 19 – March 29, 2008. [www.class.uh.edu/blaffer](http://www.class.uh.edu/blaffer)

In **Apertura Colombia** at the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, 13 Colombian artists find the signs of social transformation amid mass graves, drugs, terrorism and death squads, March 8 – May 18, 2008. [www.stationmuseum.com](http://www.stationmuseum.com) At the Holocaust Museum Houston eight international photojournalists document the war in Darfur, Sudan. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents a show by Dawoud Bey.

The transforming identity of Arab women is represented in Moroccan-born **Lalla Essaydi's** large-scale, calligraphic works, **Les Femmes du Maroc**, showing at Anya Tish Gallery, March 7 – April 5, 2008. [www.anytishgallery.com](http://www.anytishgallery.com)

Conceptual art referencing beauty and violence is featured by Sicardi Gallery with new work by internationally known Colombian artist **Miguel Angel Rojas**, March 27 – May 15, 2008. [www.sicardigallery.com](http://www.sicardigallery.com)

Transformation of our environment is represented in **Breaking Earth**, the collaboration of video artist **Alfred Guzzetti** and composer **Kurt Stallman** that turns **DiverseWorks Artspace** into an immersive atmosphere of light and sound from March 7 – April 26, 2008. Loosely based on Thoreau's *Walden*, *Breaking Earth's* images and sounds carry us to a place where abstracted landscape becomes a landscape of consciousness, prompting reflection on the disconnect between our actions and our impact on the environment. [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org)

Both man and nature's transformation is explored in **Branching Out**, an exhibit of images by **William Winkler** and cast bronzes by **Paul Winkler** at mARCHITECTS, March 7 – April 27, 2008. Man's ancient relationship to nature and the evolved necessity of tools is explored in Paul Winkler's bronzes. William Winkler's photographs explore the relationship between a group of Live Oak trees and the radiant energy that surrounds them, transforming them into creations of reverence and honor. [www.m-architects.com](http://www.m-architects.com)

The ten Chinese exhibitions presented by FotoFest present historical work made before and during the anti-Japanese war (1930s-1940s), the Cultural Revolution, the emergence of independent documentary photography in the 1980s, and contemporary staged and conceptual work from the mid-1990s through the present. [www.fotofest.org](http://www.fotofest.org)

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and CalArts, have curated with the MFAH Film Department three weekends of **New Chinese Cinema**, March 8-April 6, 2008. The MFAH Film Department also hosts **Imagining China - Short Films by Texas Filmmakers**, April 5, 2008, sponsored by FOTOFEST2008 and Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP). [www.swamp.org](http://www.swamp.org)

For a full listing of FOTOFEST2008 exhibits and events, visit [www.fotofest.org](http://www.fotofest.org)

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**For more information on FOTOFEST2008 or for visuals, please contact:**

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