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December 8 through February 17, 2001

Aziz + Cucher, Heike Baranowsky, Nic Nicosia, Wojciech Prazmowski, Michael Spano, Tomoko Yoneda

CHICAGO December, 2000 - From December 8 through February 17, 2001, The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago, will present exhibitions by prominent contemporary artists working with photography: Aziz +Cucher, Heike Baranowsky, Nic Nicosia, Wojciech Prazmowski, Michael Spano, and Tomoko Yoneda.

Aziz +Cucher, a collaborative team using digital processes, present large format photographs of hermetically sealed faces. Disturbingly mutated, yet retaining the depth and volume of the face, their subjects are portrayed by an eerie meeting of identity and technology, undermining the familiar genre of photographic portraiture.

German artist Heike Baranowsky's double screen video installation Parallax (1999) consists of two moving images of a woodland passing by, one with the image slightly delayed. The silent, hypnotic piece is a compelling exploration of time, movement, and landscape. Baranowsky is considered one of the most interesting emerging video artists in Europe.

On view are four recent films by Nic Nicosia: Middletown (1997), Moving Picture (1998), Middletown Morning, (1999), and Cerchi e Quadrati (2000). Known for his staged photographs that invite ambiguous interpretations of such themes as love, lust, and the everyday, in his film and video work Nicosia continues to explore the psychological uneasiness that often accompanies middle-class American values of the Dallas suburbs where he grew up and lives today.

Wojciech Prazmowski, a Polish artist, is interested in the passage of time in its mythical and symbolic form or as memory. Addressing themes of history, memory, and war, Prazmowski uses old postcards and amateur and professional photographs from family albums and archives to construct photomontages and photo objects.

Well known for his ability to manipulate scale, focal planes, and perspectives, Michael Spano hand-held a 4 x 5 camera to create his street photography series Diptychs (1998 - 2000). The images from this series freeze two distinct moments in one negative in an unfixed spatiality.

Primarily concerned with tracing history, Tomoko Yoneda's images from her series Between Visible and Invisible are poetic illustrations of major intellectual figures of the twentieth century. In her photographs key objects that helped shape the work of scholars

such as Sigmund Freud and Hermann Hesse are viewed through the scholar's actual eyeglasses.

A public lecture by Michael Spano will take place on Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 pm in the galleries of The Museum of Contemporary Photography. The exhibition's pre-opening gallery talk will be the same evening from 4 to 5 pm. Heike Baranowsky, Michael Spano and Tomoko Yoneda will accompany visitors through their exhibitions. The opening reception will follow from 5 to 8 pm.

An art excursion begins at 1 pm on Saturday, January 20, 2001 at The Museum of Contemporary Photography. Wojciech Prazmowski and Marek Grygiel, curator of photography at the Center for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, and editor-in-chief of Fotoapeta magazine, will conduct the tour. Designed to provide insights into Polish art created since World War II the tour opens with a discussion of Prazmowski's work and continues on to the Art Institute to view Mirosław Balka's sculpture, Salt Seller. The last stop on the tour will be the Chicago Cultural Center to explore In Between: Art from Poland 1945 -2000.

A lunchtime gallery talk and tour of the current exhibitions will be hosted by museum staff members on Wednesday, February 14, 2001.

From February 19 through March 2, 2001, the museum will continue its "behind the scenes" program, remaining open during its installation period. During this time the public is invited to visit the museum as the staff (often with the artists themselves) unpack, lay out, assemble, and hang works by the next group of exhibition artists, including works by Antonia Contro & Maurizio Pellegrin, Clement Cooper, and David Ireland.

On Thursday, January 18, 2001 a workshop Making Photo Objects with Wojciech Prazmowski will be held in room 1111, Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan Avenue from 6 to 7:30 pm. Participants are asked to bring their old black-and-white or color photographs to create a photo object. Reservations are required. For further information or reservations, contact Karen Irvine at 312.344.7707.

The museum is free and open to the public weekdays from 10 until 5 pm (Thursdays until 8 pm) and Saturdays from 12 to 5 pm.

The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs of The Museum of Contemporary Photography are supported in part by grants from AOL Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Sara Lee Foundation; the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This project is supported in part by LOT Polish Airlines, Pioneer New Media Technologies, Inc., and Zenith Electronics Corporation. This ongoing series of exhibitions is principally sponsored by American Airlines, the official airlines of The Museum of Contemporary Photography.