

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BARBARA CRANE'S "CHICAGO LOOP PHOTOGRAPHS"
FROM THE LASALLE BANK PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION
TO OPEN AT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY,
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO, MARCH 22, 2002**

Between 1976 and 1978, Barbara Crane (United States, born 1928) roamed the streets of Chicago's central business district photographing its architectural fabric with a 5-by-7-inch view camera hauled in a golf cart. Exposing over 500 negatives, Crane settled on ninety black and white photographs for a series titled Chicago Loop. In the late nineties at age seventy-four, Crane returned to the Loop, abandoned the view camera for digital technology, and began photographing rooftops in color for a series titled Anomalies.

Chicago Loop includes some of the city's best-known buildings as well as its alleys, parking garages, and elevated water tanks. Discussing this work, Crane said, "I was entranced by the random layers of textures, tones, and planes all adding up to an explosion of visual excitement only comprehended when I had time to look carefully and was not rushing by car, bus, or train on the way to some appointment."

The switch to digital process has not diminished the visual excitement of Crane's work. Anomalies maintains Crane's precise vision and references the original Loop series. The new work reveals its age only through the telling details of urban renewal ably photographed.

Chicago Loop will be on view at The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago, March 22 through June 15, 2002. Anomalies will be on view at the museum, March 22 through May 18, 2002. A companion exhibition, "The Great Fire of 1871" will be on view in conjunction with Crane's. Forty photographs made two weeks after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, have been selected from the LaSalle Bank Photography Collection to inform the exhibition of photographs made by Crane 100 years later. The opening reception will be held on March 22, 2002 from 5:00 until 7:00 pm.

Crane was born in Chicago and studied at Mills College in California, completing her B.F.A. degree in art history at New York University. She received her M.S. from the Institute of Design (now Illinois Institute of Technology). Crane taught for twenty-eight years at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. She retired in 1993 as emeritus professor of photography. Crane has been a visiting artist at art schools, universities, and workshops worldwide. Her work is included in many national and international collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, among many others. The Barbara Crane Archive has been placed with the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

This exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Sarah Anne McNear, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, published by LaSalle Bank and distributed by D.A.P. This exhibition is partially funded by LaSalle Bank N.A., the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This ongoing series of exhibitions is principally sponsored by American Airlines, the official airlines of The Museum of Contemporary Photography.

The museum is free and open to the public weekdays from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm (Thursdays until 8:00 pm) and Saturdays from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. It is located at 600 S. Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park. Phone 312.663.5554 for additional information. To contact the museum on the worldwide web, visit www.mocp.org