

**Museum of Contemporary Photography joins *Commit to Memory*  
“Stages of Memory: The Vietnam War” to be part of citywide exploration of Vietnam War**

August 1, 2005, Chicago - On Veterans' Day, November 11, 2005, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Department of Transportation will unveil the new Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Wabash Plaza designed by renowned artist and Vietnam vet Gary Tillery. In the months leading up to the dedication, five Chicago cultural institutions will invite the city to explore the complex history, memory and legacy of the Vietnam War through visual imagery, theater, film and public discussion in a unique, two-month memorial throughout Chicago entitled *Commit to Memory*.

*Commit to Memory* will run from September 6 – November 11, 2005 and will include programs from The Gene Siskel Film Center, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Pritzker Military Library, Steppenwolf Theatre Company and The Vietnam Veterans Art Museum. *Commit to Memory* offers a vibrant platform for cross-generational, multi-faceted, democratic dialogue that will honor the experiences of the past and educate the audiences of today.

**The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago** will present two exhibitions, **Stages of Memory: The Vietnam War**, and Jeff Wolin's **Vietnam War Veterans: Portraits and Text, October 13 – December 17, 2005**. **Stages of Memory** focuses on the excavation and interpretation of memory by first, second and even third-hand witnesses to the Vietnam War. The artists in this exhibition have an intimate relationship with the war through their own childhood experience in Vietnam or that of their parents. They include Dinh Q. Lê (Vietnam), Howard Henry Chen (USA), An-My Lê (USA), Johnny Miller (USA) and Liza Nguyen (France). **Vietnam War Veterans: Portraits and Text** exhibits the work of Jeffrey Wolin (USA), whose critically acclaimed work combines his passion for both text and image by incorporating his subjects' personal narratives with their portraits.

The complete list of events for *Commit to Memory* is as follows:

-----

**The Gene Siskel Film Center** will screen the film *Winter Soldier*, **September 16 - 22, 2005**. Nearly unseen for over 30 years, *Winter Soldier* (1972) is an extraordinary "lost" documentary of the Winter Soldier Investigation conducted by Vietnam Veterans Against the War in Detroit during the winter of 1971. Over the course of four days, more than a hundred veterans (including a young John Kerry) gave testimony of atrocities they had witnessed or committed.

Tickets to the film are \$9 (\$5 for Film Center members), \$7 ticket price for all students, \$4 for student, faculty, and staff of the School of the Art Institute and of the Art Institute. Tickets are available at the Gene Siskel Film Center Box Office which opens at 5pm weekdays and 2pm weekends. Tickets may also be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 312-575-8000 or by visiting [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

**The Gene Siskel Film Center** selects and presents significant world cinema in a non-commercial context that sets aesthetic, critical and entertainment standards. To this end, the Film Center exhibits a range of carefully curated film art in technically excellent facilities, and educates the audience, setting film in an historical and cultural context through courses, lectures, panel discussions and publications, and through research and collections.

For more information on the event, contact Martin Rubin, Associate Director of Programming, at (312) 846-2075 or [mrubin1@artic.edu](mailto:mrubin1@artic.edu).

The Gene Siskel Film Center  
164 North State Street  
Chicago IL 60601  
312-846-2600 phone  
[www.siskelfilmcenter.org](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org)

-----

**The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago** will present two exhibitions, **Stages of Memory: The Vietnam War**, and Jeff Wolin's **Vietnam War Veterans: Portraits and Text, October 13 – December 17, 2005**. **Stages of Memory** focuses on the excavation and interpretation of memory by first, second and even third-hand witnesses to the Vietnam War. The artists in this exhibition have an intimate relationship with the war through their own childhood experience in Vietnam or that of their parents. They include Dinh Q. Lê (Vietnam), Howard Henry Chen (USA), An-My Lê (USA), Johnny Miller (USA) and Liza Nguyen (France). **Vietnam War Veterans: Portraits and Text** exhibits the work of Jeffrey Wolin (USA), whose critically acclaimed work combines his passion for both text and image by incorporating his subjects' personal narratives with their portraits.

In conjunction with the exhibition, MoCP and the English Department of Columbia College Chicago will host a lecture by National Book Award-winning author and Vietnam Veteran Larry Heinemann. The author of three novels set in the Vietnam War, he has been called "One of America's most important writers."

The museum is FREE and open to the public. Hours are Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm, Thursdays until 8:00pm, Saturdays 12 to 5pm. **There will be an Opening Reception on October 13, 2005 at 6:00pm.**

The Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP) is the only museum in the Midwest with an exclusive commitment to the medium of photography. By presenting projects and exhibitions that embrace a wide range of contemporary aesthetics and technologies, the Museum strives to communicate the value and significance of photographic images as expressions of human thought, imagination, and creativity.

For more information on the event, contact Jessica Jahner, Development and Communications Manager, at (312) 344-7779 or [jjahner@colum.edu](mailto:jjahner@colum.edu).

Museum of Contemporary Photography  
Columbia College Chicago  
600 S. Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60605  
312.663.5554 phone  
[www.mocp.org](http://www.mocp.org)

-----

**The Pritzker Military Library's** Medal of Honor Series will welcome **Congressional Medal of Honor recipient COL. Wesley L. Fox, USMC (Ret.)** on **Thursday, October 27, 2005** for a one-on-one interview with executive director, Ed Tracy. While serving as a rifle company

commander with the Third Marine Division in 1969, Fox was twice wounded in a vicious battle during Operation Dewey Canyon. His extraordinary actions are featured in the book *Marine Rifleman: Forty-Three Years in the Corps* and *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty*. COL Fox retired from the Marine Corps in 1993 after forty-three years of distinguished service. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he received two awards of the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star with Combat V, three awards of the Purple Heart and numerous commendations.

A complimentary wine and cheese reception and book signing will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the library located at 610 N Fairbanks Ct. The program begins at 6:00 p.m. The event will be webcast live at the library's website. The event is FREE and open to the public, however, space is limited and advance reservations are encouraged. Call (312) 587-0234 or visit: [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org).

The Pritzker Military Library is Chicago's newest military research facility, offering over 13,000 volumes and 200 prints and posters. The Library presents weekly author lectures, interviews and panel discussions to a live audience and exhibits military art and antique posters from its collection.

For more information on the event, contact Ed Tracy, Executive Director, at 312-587-0234 or [etracy@tawanifoundation.net](mailto:etracy@tawanifoundation.net).

Pritzker Military Library  
610 North Fairbanks Court  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-587-0234  
[www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org)

-----

**Steppenwolf Theatre Company** will present *Last of the Boys* by Steven Dietz, **September 15 – November 14, 2005**. Jeeter arrives in the Great Central Valley to the rusted trailer of his buddy Ben, a fellow Vietnam veteran. Their beer drinking is interrupted by the arrival of Jeeter's new girlfriend, her crazy mother and a stranger from their shared past. This fierce, funny American story marks the Downstairs Theatre directorial debut of ensemble member Rick Snyder, and features ensemble members Tracy Letts, Mariann Mayberry and Amy Morton.

Performances are Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m., as well as Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m. and selected Wednesday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Buy tickets online at [www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org) or call (312) 335-1650. Tickets are \$20-60.

Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> season, Steppenwolf Theatre Company is committed to the principle of ensemble performance through the collaboration of a company of actors, directors and playwrights, advancing the vitality and diversity of American theater by nurturing artists, encouraging repeatable creative relationships and contributing new works to the national canon. The company, formed in 1976 by a collective of actors, is dedicated to perpetuating an ethic of mutual respect and the development of artists through ongoing group work. Steppenwolf has grown into an internationally renowned company of thirty-five artists whose talents include acting, directing, playwriting, filmmaking and textual adaptation.

For more information on the event, contact William Nedved, Publicist, at (312) 335-1650  
wnedved@steppenwolf.org.

Steppenwolf Theatre  
1650 N. Halsted Street  
Chicago IL 60614  
312- 335-1650  
www.steppenwolf.org

-----

**National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum** presents a series of exhibitions and events running  
**September 2 – November 11, 2005:**

***Trauma and Metamorphosis II***

An exhibition proudly presenting the artistic work of veterans, transforming their memories of atrocities into creative expression.

***First to Fight: the US Marines in Vietnam***

An exhibition focusing on the early years of the Vietnam War and the effort of the U.S. Marines.

***Things We Carried***

An exhibition of artifacts carried by Vietnam veterans in combat, inspired in part by the novel *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien.

On **Thursday, November 10, 2005** there will be **Marine Corps Birthday Party** from 6:00 – 9:00pm, featuring USMC Vietnam Veteran Rick Davis. **Rick Davis** will be reading from his book *Once a Marine* and conducting a signing. The event is free and open to the public.

On **Friday, November 11, 2005** **November 10** there will be a **Veterans Day Celebration Opening Reception** from 3:00 – 7:00pm, with a **Welcome Home of Iraq War Veterans by Vietnam Veterans**. The event is free and open to the public.

Hours are Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am-6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00am-5:00 pm; Sunday Noon-5:00 pm  
Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 students.

In 1981, a few Vietnam combat veterans created an artistic and historical collection that would become a timeless, humanistic statement of war on behalf of all veterans for future generations. The exhibit toured the United States and later found a permanent home with the help of Mayor Richard Daley, at 1801 S. Indiana. Today, the **National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum** (NVVAM) is still located in Chicago's South Loop and houses over 500 works of art. The artwork presented at the Museum provides a unique viewpoint on war for all visitors. The collection is born from the sheer sentiment of those who personally experienced the immediate suffering and realities of war. It's clear the artists have experienced the creative and spontaneous insight, and intuition, that comes from witnessing the magnitude of human combat first-hand.

For more information on the event, contact Jennifer Fortney, Press Representative, at (773) 529-7547 or jfortney@cascadecomms.com.

National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum  
1801 S Indiana Avenue

Chicago, IL 60616  
312-326-0270 phone  
www.nvvam.org

-----

**For more information on each event, please contact the organization's listed representative.**

*Commit to Memory* is sponsored in part by Borders Books, *Time Out Chicago*, *The Chicago Sun-Times*, and The Chicago Department of Transportation.

# # #