

Press Release

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Consuming Nature
The Museum of Contemporary Photography
Columbia College Chicago
December 11, 2003 through February 19, 2004

CHICAGO - The Museum of Contemporary Photography will present Consuming Nature, an exhibition of four photographers concerned with the ongoing relationship between man and nature. Opening December 11, 2003 through February 19, 2004, this exhibition will present numerous breath-taking images of nature's beauty as well as haunting images of nature's destruction.

Although exploring similar concerns on the relationship between man and nature, the artists selected for this exhibition represent three distinct cultural viewpoints. Mark Ruwedel's (United States, b. 1954) series entitled The Ice Age records the evidence of both prehistoric and contemporary cultures that have left visible marks along the ancient shores of Lake Manly, a Pleistocene Lake that is now Death Valley.

Naoya Hatakeyama's (Japan, b. 1958) photographs of limestone factories and quarries depict the scarring and blasting of Japan's hills and mountains in a country with few natural resources.

Toshio Shibata (Japan, born 1949) photographs cement dams, wire nettings, and erosion prevention to look at how man attempts to restrict the course of nature.

Dan Holdsworth (United Kingdom, b. 1974) will be represented with his large-scale photographic triptych Black Mountain. Taken at the edge of the Vatnajokull glacier in Iceland, this mammoth piece represents an abstract surface of black and white mountains, permeated with almost imperceptible yet intense fragments of color, which in reality is a fragile mass of ice and volcanic debris at the point of collapse. Through the lens of these four photographers this exhibition will document the process of nature as an ever-changing entity.

The museum will host an opening reception on Thursday, December 11, 2003 from 5 pm until 7 pm at The Museum of Contemporary Photography's main gallery.

This exhibition and related programs are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Kaplan Family Foundation; the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs/Gallery 37; and American Airlines, the official airlines of The Museum of Contemporary Photography.

The Museum of Contemporary Photography is free and open to the public weekdays from 10 am until 5 pm (Thursdays until 8 pm) and Saturdays from noon until 5 pm. It is located at 600 S. Michigan Avenue on the corner of Harrison Street. For additional information please call 312-663-5554 or visit us at www.mocp.org.