

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Irvine
312.344.7707
kirvine@colum.edu

**CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER SCOTT FORTINO
EXHIBITS PHOTOGRAPHS
AT
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY,
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**

NOVEMBER 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 2002

CHICAGO, October 2002 -- Scott Fortino's (United States, born 1952) color photographs of Chicago public school classrooms and police station holding cells comprise the second in a new series of exhibitions at The Museum of Contemporary Photography featuring photographers from the Midwest.

A Chicago police officer for twenty-three years, Fortino used to think of his job and his artwork as diametrically opposed. After returning to graduate school for photography in 1998, however, he realized that his uniform facilitated access to restricted places rich in photographic potential. In his photographs of institutional spaces, Fortino explores the psychology of confinement and protection. Observed with an almost clinical formality, his pictures of Chicago classrooms and holding cells, both highly structured and regimented environments normally filled to capacity, resonate through the absence of human presence. Brightly colored walls and graffiti evidence attempts to reverse the deadening and leveling affects of the bland institutional environments, as well as the very human need to assert independence and individuality in the face of restriction and impersonality.

Scott Fortino has a BA from Columbia College Chicago (1980) and an MFA in Photography from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2001).

The opening reception is November 8, 2002 from 5 pm until 7 pm at The Museum of Contemporary Photography and is free and open to the public. Fortino will give a gallery talk at 6 pm.

Scott Fortino is a participant in the Midwest Photographers Project at The Museum of Contemporary Photography. To find out more about the project please visit www.mocp.org/mpp.

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

###

The museum is free and open to the public weekdays from 10 am until 5 pm (Thursdays until 8 pm) and Saturdays from 12 until 5 pm. It is located at 600 S. Michigan Avenue at Harrison Street. Phone 312.663.5554 or visit mocp.org for additional information.