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**ARTIST JOACHIM SCHMID TO MAKE HIS CHICAGO DEBUT AT
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**

Two installations by prominent German artist Joachim Schmid will be on view at The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago, from August 11 through October 13, 2001. In "Pictures from the Street" and "Statics," Schmid utilizes found photographs and materials he receives in his mailbox, such as travel brochures and exhibition announcement cards, to create a fascinating visual archive.

For almost twenty years Schmid (born 1955) has collected over 700 photographs found on streets from around the world and arranged them into a collection according to the date that they were found. Nearly all of these discarded or lost images in "Pictures from the Street" depict people in family snapshots that were never intended for public display. Schmid's sequencing of the pictures, combined with the weathered and damaged appearance of the photographs themselves, suggest particular stories that cannot be read with any certainty. This exhibition is composed of every seventh image from his collection and hung close together in one long line around the gallery.

Schmid's installation "Statics" is made from collections of materials that in some way depend on the photograph, such as film stills, invitation cards for photography exhibitions, baseball cards and even fine art photographs. Schmid selects a particular category of material, such as gallery invitation cards, and puts them through an office paper shredder. He then mounts the resulting strips on board,

Schmid creating abstract collages whose meaning and aesthetic values no longer reference the materials used to make the image. The unique collages vary according to the size of the collection shredded.

The opening reception for Joachim Schmid will be held on August 9 from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm in the galleries of the museum. The reception is free and all are welcome. During the opening at 6:00 pm, Schmid will lead a tour of his projects, "Pictures from the Street" and "Statics," and discuss his use of found photography.

The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs at 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; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Joachim Schmid exhibition has been organized in cooperation with the Goethe-Institute of Chicago, German Cultural Center. 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.