

**May 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Harry Callahan, *Eleanor and Barbara, Chicago, 1954*

MoCP

Museum of
Contemporary Photography

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
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Relative Closeness: Photographs of Family and Friends
June 15 - August 8, 2007

Work by:

Harry Callahan

Jen Davis

Todd Deutsch

KayLynn Deveney

Deanna Dikeman

Ben Gest

Cynthia Greig and Richard H. Smith

Alice Hargrave

Vince Leo

Sally Mann

Hvroje Slovinc

Aleksandra Vajd

Opening reception:

Thursday, June 14, 5-7pm

Chicago – In June 2007, the MoCP will open *Relative Closeness: Photographs of Family and Friends*, an exhibition curated by Karen Irvine showcasing works from the Midwest Photographers Project and permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago.

Relative Closeness presents the work of artists who focus their cameras on their own friends, families, and family histories. By recording their children, spouses, friends, and parents, these artists explore their immediate environments and the people who anchor them, as a way to reflect upon their past, future, and, perhaps, their own mortality. Ranging from affectionate portraits to psychologically

challenging images, this exhibition presents works that reflect the universal sweetness, sanctuary, and stresses of family life. Some of the artists probe the very meaning of “family,” others turn to friends, themselves, or even already-existing photographs to fill their need for human connection.

ABOUT MOCP

The Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), a resident organization of Columbia College Chicago, 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.

ABOUT MPP/MoCP PERMANENT COLLECTION

Inaugurated in 1982, the Midwest Photographers Project is a rotating collection of portfolios by both prominent and emerging photographers from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Each portfolio represents a current body of work from a recent or on-going project, and is loaned to the museum for a two-year period. Spanning a diverse array of media, subject matter, and style, MPP is a unique and expansive resource on contemporary regional photography. The MoCP’s permanent collection focuses on American and U.S. resident photography since 1936. More than 7,000 photographs and photographically related objects reflect the craft’s diverse capacities for artistic expression, documentation, and communication. They include gelatin-silver prints, color work, digital pieces, photograms, and a host of alternative processes. Likewise, a spectrum of three-dimensional objects informed by and incorporating photography are also represented in the collection, from lightboxes to sculpture. The work of international artists and sample works from the nineteenth century complement and complete the collection.

EXHIBITION SPONSORS

The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs of the MoCP are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs/After School Matters; The Fry Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; American Airlines, the official airlines of the MoCP, and our members.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Karen Irvine is the curator of the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago. She has organized numerous exhibitions including: *Audible Imagery: Sound and Photography*; *Anthony Goicolea*; *Tracey Baran*; *Scott Fortino*; *Shirana Shahbazi: Goftare Nik/Good Words*; *Jason Salavon*; *Jin Lee*; *Paul Shambroom: Evidence of Democracy*; *Alec Soth: Sleeping by the Mississippi*; *The Furtive Gaze*; and *Camera/Action: Performance and Photography*, among others. She is a part-time instructor of photography at Columbia College Chicago. She received her MFA in photography from FAMU, Prague, and is a candidate for a Masters of Arts degree in art history at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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