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**NEW DIRECTOR NAMED AT  
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY,  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**

**CHICAGO, July 2002** - Rod Slemmons has been named Director of The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago. Slemmons comes to the museum from the University of Washington, Seattle, where he teaches the history of photography and graduate museum studies. He has worked as a museum professional for twenty-five years, most recently as the Curator of Prints and Photographs at the Seattle Art Museum from 1982 to 1996. He is well known for the many exhibitions and catalog essays he has produced on both historic and contemporary photography.

Slemmons's essays and reviews have appeared in many publications including *Afterimage*, *Image* a publication of the George Eastman House, *Black Flash*, and *Reflex*. In 1998 he was a guest essayist for the book *Photography's Multiple Roles: Art, Document, Market, Science*, published by The Museum of Contemporary Photography. Recent longer catalog essays were for photographic books *The Unprotected* by Lena Liv and *Hutterite* by Kristin Capp. Exhibitions he has organized include "Eye of the Mind/Mind of the Eye" (1988) which featured the work of Canadian and American artists who combine word and image; "Water: The Renewable Metaphor" (1997), which presented the work of Bill Viola, Gary Hill, Dieter Appelt and Bernd and Hilla Becher, among other artists; and "Beyond Novelty: New Digital Art" (2000).

He has also organized internationally traveling exhibitions including "Diane Arbus" (1986), "Like a One Eyed Cat," (1989) a 30 year retrospective of photography by Lee Friedlander supported by a major publication by Abrams, "Shadowy Evidence: The Art of E.S. Curtis and his Contemporaries," (1989) and "The Machine in the Window" (1990), a retrospective of the digital work of Paul Berger.

Slemmons holds a BA and MA in English from the University of Iowa and worked as an intern at the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House while completing courses in the MFA program at Rochester Institute of Technology from 1976 to 1978. In 1987 he received a Seattle Arts Commission Individual Artist grant, and in 1999, also for the Seattle Arts Commission, he produced "A Millenium Reflection, Seattle Poets and Photographers." He was the national Chairperson for the Society for Photographic Education from 1990 to 1994, and has served as a peer review panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and as a grant reader and site evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Slemmons will join the museum in September. He replaces Sarah Anne McNear, Director since January 2001, who resigned because of a family move to New York.

Founded in 1984, The Museum of Contemporary Photography is one of only three photography museums accredited by the American Association of Museums. The museum has a permanent collection of over 6,000 images and enjoys an international reputation as an innovative forum for the collection, creation, and examination of contemporary imagemaking in its camera tradition and in its expanded vocabulary of electronic and digital processes.

The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs of The Museum of Contemporary Photography are supported in part by grants from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs/Gallery 37, the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, and American Airlines.

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