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Contact: Jessica Jahner  
312-344-7779  
jjahner@colum.edu

*Stages of Memory: The War in Vietnam*

Museum of Contemporary Photography  
Columbia College Chicago  
*October 13 – December 17, 2005*



Image: An-My Le, *Small Wars (Rescue)*

The Museum of Contemporary Photography will exhibit *Stages of Memory: The War in Vietnam* from October 13<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Following the thirty-year anniversary of the fall of Saigon, the Museum of Contemporary Photography bring together six international photographers, **Dinh Q. Lê Chen** (Vietnam, b. 1969), **Liza Nguyen** (French, b. 1979), **Binh Danh** (Vietnamese-American, b. 1977), **An-My Lê** (Vietnam, b. 1960), **Johnny Miller** (American, b. 1971) and **Howard Henry Chen** (American, b. Vietnam, 1972), all of whom having a direct relationship to the Vietnam War. Each artist explores the war recollection through parents, historical accounts from available publication, or even Vietnamese born with childhood experiences. The emotional memory of the war in the United States and Vietnam has been affected equally by the loss each one faced, but more so Vietnam, because of the physical damage from the outcome of war. The war is still a constant reminder to its citizens' through memorials, war cemeteries, bomb craters, flattened ancient ruins, discarded scrap metal, land mines, and hidden traces of dioxin in the soil. As the population of Vietnam becomes increasingly younger, currently 58% under the age of 30, this exhibition demonstrates the inevitability of fading memory and remembrance of war.

MoCP is proud to participate in Commit to Memory, a citywide collaboration that explores the complex history, memory and legacy of the Vietnam War through visual imagery, theater and film. Find out more at [www.committomemory.org](http://www.committomemory.org).

**Related Events:**

Opening Reception  
October 13, 2005, 5-7 pm

Lecture: Dinh Q. Lê  
October 13, 2005, 6:30pm  
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

Dinh Q. Lê makes provocative photo-weavings using images appropriated from the media and Hollywood films that reference the war in Vietnam. This lecture is presented in conjunction with the Photography Department of Columbia College Chicago.

Curator's Talk: Karen Irvine  
Wednesday, November 16, Noon  
Museum of Contemporary Photography

Film Screening and Discussion with Director and Filmmaker Barbara Sonneborn  
*Regret to Inform*  
Thursday, December 1, 2005, 6pm  
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

On her twenty-fourth birthday, Barbara Sonneborn received a knock on her door from a United States Army soldier, and heard the words "We regret to inform you...." Her husband Jeff had been killed by a mortar in Vietnam. Twenty years later, Sonneborn embarked on a journey through the country where he fought and died. Woven into her personal odyssey are interviews with American and Vietnamese widows from both sides of the conflict. *Regret to Inform* has new relevance in the current political climate. It demonstrates that all wars change lives forever.

#### **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING**

The MoCP Museum Council presents:  
Appraisals Day  
Saturday, October 29, 2005  
noon -2pm  
Museum of Contemporary Photography  
Minimum donation of \$5 per item  
Small items only, please limit items to 5

Finally, you can bring your own photographs to the museum! Appraisers from Leslie Hindman Auctioneers will examine photographs, drawings, paintings, and jewelry and let you know what they're worth. Proceeds support the exhibitions, public programs, and educational activities of MoCP.

*Book Release Party*  
Industry of the Ordinary  
Thursday, December 15, 2005  
5-7pm  
Museum of Contemporary Photography

Celebrate the publication of Midwest Photographers Project Artists Industry of the Ordinary's (Mat Wilson and Adam Brooks) newly released book *Text Book: Notes around the Margins*. The evening will also feature a discussion by participants in this book project and an action orchestrated by Industry of the Ordinary. "Text Book" is co-published by Links Hall, and partially funded by the Illinois Humanities Council and faculty development grants from Columbia College Chicago and the University of St. Francis, Joliet.

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