



# MoCP

Museum of  
Contemporary Photography

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO  
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The Museum is free and open to the public:  
Mon-Sat: 10am to 5pm  
Thu: until 8pm  
Sun: noon to 5pm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TEENAGERS REFLECT ON IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN NEW EXHIBITION AT MOCP

Students in the acclaimed arts education programs at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships and Museum of Contemporary Photography construct public and private narratives through writing and photography.

*Talkin' Back 4: Chicago Youth Respond*  
May 30 to June 3, 2007  
Opening Reception: Thursday, May 31, 5-7pm

Chicago- On May 31, 2007, the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) and the Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), Columbia College Chicago, will open *Talkin' Back 4: Chicago Youth Respond*, an annual exhibition of photography and creative writing that distills major subjects impacting our community into riveting personal reflections on identity.

*Talkin' Back* began four years ago as a conversation about text and image among photographers and writers working in programs sponsored by the MoCP and CCAP. Today it continues as a partnership between CCAP's nationally recognized arts integration program Project AIM (Arts Integration Mentorship) and the MoCP's Picture Me program. Project AIM partners teaching artists with public school teachers in Chicago to create arts-integrated curriculum that promotes reading and writing through the arts. Picture Me teaches Chicago teens professional photography skills that enable them to examine their lives and communities, express themselves creatively, and further their career and academic goals.

"*Talkin' Back* serves as a model for what can be accomplished when college-based urban institutions like MoCP and CCAP share their vast resources—their faculty, visiting artists, exhibition spaces and the artworks and books in their archives—with the community," says MoCP Education Manager Corinne Rose.

The exhibition includes artwork by students from the Academy of Communications and Technology (A.C.T.) Charter School, Curie Metropolitan High School, Herzl Elementary School, Juarez Community Academy, Sabin Magnet School, Murphy Elementary School, and Uplift Community School.

Among the projects on display is a collaborative installation, *1000 Words/1000 Pictures* that creates a collective voice of words and images gathered from the two hundred youth participants from schools throughout

Chicago. Students were first asked to take 1,000 snapshots interpreting the theme "Inside/Outside." They then generated 1,000 descriptive words in response to the photograph, *Man in Window, New York, 1982*, by Roy DeCarava, a celebrated artist in the MoCP's permanent collection.

"The *Talkin' Back 4* exhibition is an inspiring opportunity for students to work with professional photographers and writers, and produce work for a very public and professional exhibition. Through this partnership, students of diverse cultural backgrounds, age groups and neighborhoods are insured that when they *talk back*, an audience of adults at a premiere arts college will listen and respond," says Cynthia Weiss, CCAP's associate director of school partnerships/ Project AIM.

Students, artists and educators will be present at the opening reception on May 31, 2007, from 5-7 pm to celebrate and answer questions about the work. Spoken word artists will perform throughout the evening.

### **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 CCAP**

Since 1998, the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) at Columbia College Chicago has been transforming the lives of thousands of Chicago's young people through its unique approach to college-community partnership building. Founded on a mission to link the academic departments of Columbia College Chicago with diverse communities throughout the city, CCAP brings the concepts of community-based learning, arts-integrated curricula and reciprocal partnerships into the spotlight. It unites artists, educators, students, corporations, schools and community-based organizations to form meaningful, sustainable partnerships in the arts.

### **EXHIBITION SPONSORS**

Funding for the outreach programs of the MoCP is provided by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs/After School Matters. 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; American Airlines, the official airline of the MoCP; and our members.

AIM (Arts Integration Mentorship) is a project of the Center for Community Arts Partnerships at Columbia College Chicago. This project is supported in part by the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation; the U.S. Department of Education's Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination Program; Prince Charitable Trusts; the Polk Bros. Foundation; the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; the Field Foundation of Illinois; Kraft Foods, Inc; and the Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education CAPE/CAN Network with funding from the McDougal Foundation.

For more information on MoCP please contact (312)663-5554.

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**Image:** *You've Ever Wondered* by Erica Barban, Curie high school.