

Press Release

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Conversations: Text & Image  
The Museum of Contemporary Photography  
Columbia College Chicago  
February 26– April 17, 2004

CHICAGO, January, 2004- The Museum of Contemporary Photography will present Conversations: Text and Image, from February 26 through April 17, 2004. This exhibition features the work of eight artists who combine text and image in their work: Walker Evans; Jim Goldberg; Gary Hill; Lewis Koch; Martha Rosler; Matt Siber; Lorna Simpson; and Jeff Wolin. This exhibition was organized to coincide with Story Week Festival of Writers, the annual celebration of the Fiction Writing Department of Columbia College Chicago.

During the 1930s, influenced in part by contemporary art he had seen in Europe, Walker Evans created a seamless text/image collage by including advertising signs, often fragmented, in his photographs. Lee Friedlander and Robert Rauschenberg continued this exploration in the 1960s and 70s, partly based on Evans work and partly on the much earlier Dada work of Kurt Schwitters and Raul Hausmann. By the late 1970s and early 1980s combining words and photographs had become a genre of art photography with wide and varied practice, ranging from simply writing on photographs to the first experiments with digital collage of word and image. In all the works featured in this exhibition the meaning of the text combines with the images to produce thoughts and feelings not generated by either alone.

The artists in this exhibition employ a variety of approaches to combine text and image in the creation of their work, including making photographs of text in the landscape, digital manipulations, text written directly on the surface of a photograph and spoken word combined with video.

The museum will host an opening reception on Thursday, March 4, 2004 from 5 pm until 7 pm at The Museum of Contemporary Photography's.

This exhibition and related programs are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; the City of Chicago

Department of Cultural Affairs/Gallery 37; and American Airlines, the official airlines of The Museum of Contemporary Photography, and our members.

The Museum of Contemporary Photography is free and open to the public weekdays from 10 am until 5 pm (Thursdays until 8 pm) and Saturdays from noon until 5 pm. It is located at 600 S. Michigan Avenue on the corner of Harrison Street. For additional information please call 312-663-5554 or visit us at [www.mocp.org](http://www.mocp.org).