

September 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Jeffrey A. Wolin: Inconvenient Stories
Museum of Contemporary Photography
Columbia College Chicago
October 13 – December 17, 2005



Image: Jeffery Wolin, Nigel "Buddy" Newlin, 2003

The Museum of Contemporary Photography will exhibit *Jeffrey A. Wolin: Inconvenient Stories* from October 13th to December 17th, 2005.

Jeffrey A. Wolin: Inconvenient Stories brings together 50 images and interviews from Vietnam Veterans who survived with memories that resurrect and affect who they have been since the ending of the Vietnam War. The project began in 1992 when Wolin began photographing and interviewing Vietnam Vets to show "how the trauma of war affects combatants, and civilians caught in literal and philosophical crossfire." A honest account to those who fought and lived the war in Vietnam, this body of work brings stories of veterans who continue to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, who continue to wear their metals with honor, and to others who move on with life by making art, writing memoirs, and fighting for Vietnam medical issues. As a viewer we can begin to use these photographic images to position a face on those who fought, but without the stories behind each man and woman the image leaves us limited to the realistic outcome and practice of warfare.

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.

Related Events:

Opening Reception
October 13, 2005, 5-7 pm

Conversation: *Jeffrey A. Wolin and Larry Heinemann*
Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 6pm
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

Exhibiting artist Jeff Wolin and Vietnam Veteran and author Larry Heinemann will discuss the impact of the Vietnam War on the lives of US Veterans as evidenced in the images and text on view. Following the discussion, Heinemann will sign copies of his recently released memoir *Black Virgin Mountain: A Return to Vietnam*. This

event is presented in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and the English Department of Columbia College Chicago.

Curator's Talk: Rod Slemmons
Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 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.

Jeffery A. Wolin: Inconvenient Stories was generously sponsored by U.S. Bank and Leslie Hindman Auctioneers. The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs of the Museum of Contemporary Photography are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs/After School Matters; American Airlines, the official airlines of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and our members.

Jeffery A. Wolin: Inconvenient Stories is available as a traveling exhibition. Please see mocp.org for more information.