

For Immediate Release

Contact Natasha Egan
312.344.7107
negan@colum.edu

**WORK OF ISRAELI PHOTOGRAPHER
ADI NES ON VIEW AT**

**THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY,
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO**

SEPTEMBER 27 THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 2002

CHICAGO: August, 2002 -- The large-scale, richly dramatic color photographs of **Adi Nes** (Israel, born 1966) will be on view at The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago from September 27 through December 20, 2002. Set in locations throughout his native Israel, Nes employs models and teams of assistants to construct dramatic scenes familiar to contemporary life in that country. Soldiers on military exercises, boys in rough-edged housing projects, and women and children caught up in street dramas are among the familiar themes Nes explores. Nes scouts locations, provides costumes and props, and utilizes lighting equipment and wind machines more common to fashion photography or feature films. He painstakingly creates a heightened realism charged with a symbolism, theatricality, and an eroticism that transcends the everyday.

Nes draws inspiration for many of his images from art history and mythology – classical and modern. Like theatrical events in which actors reenact the static compositions of famous paintings or events, Nes' photographs allow him to telescope ancient and contemporary times and cultural allegories. Commenting on his work Nes has said, "I am bringing the presence of the other into the public discourse. The photographs make comments on Israeli manliness, on the social realm, and also on the composition and lighting of photographs. Israeli light, you know, is harsh and searing, it creates deep contrasts. What are we if not a people of contrasts who are always doing battle between the dark and the light, between what is shadowed and glaring?"

"Adi Nes: Photographs" is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. Curator Toby Kamps has said, "The photographs allow Nes to both explore and explain his life as a gay man and as an Israeli. Nes creates his own personal and cultural pantheon – a collection of everyday myths and masterpieces – which serves as a bridge between past and present, tragedy and triumph, fear and hope, fact and fiction, the individual and the world."

Nes lives and works in Tel Aviv. He studied at the Department of Photography in Bezalel and the Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. His photographs have been exhibited at The Tel Aviv Museum of Art, at the Dvir Gallery, Amsterdam and at the Blanche and Romi Shapira Gallery, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem.

The opening reception is September 26, 2002 from 5 pm until 7 pm at The Museum of Contemporary Photography. Nes will give a gallery talk at 6 pm. The reception is free and open to the public.

The Chicago presentation of this exhibition is partially funded by the Consulate General of Israel, Chicago; the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; the National Endowment for the Arts; the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs/Gallery 37; and American Airlines, the official airlines of The Museum of Contemporary Photography.

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The museum is free and open to the public weekdays from 10 am until 5 pm (Thursdays until 8 pm) and Saturdays from 12 until 5 pm. It is located at 600 S. Michigan Avenue at Harrison Street. Phone 312.663.5554 or visit mocp.org for additional information.

