

Press Release

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Shimon Attie: The History of Another
The Museum of Contemporary Photography
Columbia College Chicago
May 6 – July 2, 2004

CHICAGO- On May 6 through July 2, 2004, the Museum of Contemporary Photography is proud to premier Shimon Attie's new body of work, entitled *The History of Another*. Concerned with questions of memory, place, and identity, Shimon Attie gives visual form to both personal and collective memories by introducing histories of marginalized and forgotten communities into the physical landscape of the present.

Describing his work "as a kind of peeling back of the wallpaper of today to reveal the histories buried underneath," Attie created *The History of Another* during a fellowship at the American Academy in Rome in 2001-2002. Using modern Rome as his backdrop, Attie projected fragments historical photographs of historical photographs of Roman Jews onto the city's ruins and excavation sites. The resulting pictures conflate three distinct historical moments: that of ancient Rome; Roman Jews at the turn of the century; and modern Rome with its new construction and continual efforts to conserve relics of the past. *The History of Another* raises broad questions and issues about "otherness" within Western history.

This exhibition will be accompanied by a monograph produced by the museum and Twin Palms Publishers with essays written by the museums associate director Natasha Egan and Alexander Stille, author of *Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism* and frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*.

The Museum of Contemporary Photography will host an opening reception and book signing on Friday, May 7, 2004 from 5 pm until 9 pm. Presented in conjunction with the Photography Department of Columbia College Chicago on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 6:30pm Shimon Attie will give a lecture in the Hokin Auditorium, 623 S. Wabash, 1st Floor.

The History of Another publication has been sponsored by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation. The 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.