

ACCLAIMED DUTCH PHOTOGRAPHER BERTIEN VAN MANEN
HAS FIRST CHICAGO EXHIBITION AT
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

The work of acclaimed contemporary photographer Bertien van Manen (The Netherlands, born 1942) will be on view at The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago from August 11 through October 13, 2001. This exhibition will feature three bodies of work by Van Manen: "A Hundred Summers, A Hundred Winters," "East Wind, West Wind," and "Men."

Inspired early in her career by the work of Robert Frank (American, born Switzerland 1924) Van Manen has made it her practice to inhabit the culture she is documenting and, to the best of her ability, live the lives of the people she photographs. By learning local languages and devoting time to personal relationships, she is able to gain access to places that are often inaccessible to a stranger with a camera, such as the homes of ordinary people. The resulting color photographs weave between the public and private lives of her subjects who, clearly at ease in her company, disclose to her camera a shifting reality in the face of social and cultural change.

The photographs in "A Hundred Summers, A Hundred Winters" were made in the former Soviet Union over a four-year period beginning in 1990. "East Wind, West Wind" contains photographs made since 1998 in China. "Men" is composed of portraits of four men (father, husband, lover, and son) central to the artist's life.

Van Manen has exhibited extensively in The Netherlands, was featured in a solo exhibition at The Photographer's Gallery in London, and has had work acquired by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The opening reception for "A Hundred Summers, A Hundred Winters," "East Wind, West Wind," and "Men" will be held on August 9 from 5:00 until 8:00 pm in the galleries of the museum. The reception is free and open to the public.

This exhibition has been organized by Bas Vroeghe, director of Paradox, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993, that is devoted to photography and media related arts. Vroeghe has worked closely with Van Manen in the development of exhibitions of her work in The Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe. The exhibitions, presentations, and related programs at The Museum of Contemporary Photography are supported in part by grants from the AOL Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Bertien van Manen exhibition has been sponsored by the Mondriaan Foundation and The Netherland-American Foundation. This on going series of exhibitions is principally sponsored by American Airlines, the official airlines of The Museum of Contemporary Photography.

The museum is free and open to the public weekdays from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm (Thursdays until 8:00 pm) and Saturdays from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. It is located at 600 S.

Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park. Phone 312.663.5554 for additional information.