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Announcing Spring Exhibitions at MOCA

America through a Chinese Lens and ***June 4, 1989: Media and Mobilization Beyond Tiananmen Square***

April 26 – September 10, 2012

[New York, NY] February 29, 2012 – On April 26th, the Museum of Chinese in America will launch two new exhibitions, *America through a Chinese Lens* and *June 4, 1989: Media and Mobilization Beyond Tiananmen Square*, on view through September 10th. The opening reception for both exhibitions will be held on Wednesday, April 25, at 6pm at the Museum.



Tseng Kwong Chi (Grand Canyon, Arizona, 1987)
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America through a Chinese Lens

Featuring photographs and projects by:

Yan Deng
Wing Young Huie
Wayne Liu
Arthur Ou
Julie Quon
Ka-Man Tse
Tseng Kwong Chi
Ann Woo
An Xiao
Amy Yao
Chien-An Yuan
Hai Zhang
Jiajia Zhang +
community photographs from MOCA's
collection

Organized by Curator and Director of Exhibitions Herb Tam, *America through a Chinese Lens* surveys more than 60 photographs by Chinese artists, documentary photographers, and non-professional enthusiasts living in the United States, Europe, and China. Drawing from MOCA's extensive permanent collection of Chinese photography and the work of

contemporary artists, the images depict American life in all of its beauty, contradictions, and realities from a uniquely Chinese perspective and span several generations: from historic photographs taken by newly arrived immigrants in the 1940s to artists working today.

The show will unite communities of diverse photographers, from those situated in MOCA's surrounding Chinatown neighborhood to contemporary artists based around New York, across this country, and in Europe and China. These artists explore such archetypal themes as the American landscape, the inner-city and suburban experience of marginalized communities, and the dislocation and absurdities of living in a foreign country.

In a series of exceptional snapshots by non-professional photographers, family life, political realities, and historic moments are intimately captured, reflecting the spirit of a rapidly changing country. Coursing through many of the images is a pervasive sense of unease and disconnection from mainstream American life, though the photographs themselves may be viewed as an inspired attempt at cultural mediation.

The exhibition includes a social media project titled *An Xiao's Streethaiku in America*: Over the course of the exhibition, new media artist and design strategist An Xiao will be photographing her travels throughout the west and southwest of America and posting them on MOCA's tumblr page: chineseinamerica.tumblr.com.

June 4, 1989: Media and Mobilization Beyond Tiananmen Square



Tony Saich (Courtesy of the Chinese People's Movement Collection, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam)

Organized by Assistant Curator Ryan Lee Wong, *June 4, 1989: Media and Mobilization Beyond Tiananmen Square* draws upon MOCA's extensive collection of Asian-American and Chinese-language periodicals to reconstruct a narrative of the American coverage and response to the 1989 protests and massacre at Tiananmen Square.

The periodicals on display –including rarely exhibited originals of *AsianWeek*, *China Press*, *East West*, *World Journal*, and *Zhong Bao* – document the development of a sister movement in America. Thousands of Asian-Americans throughout the country marched and rallied in solidarity with the Chinese protesters including a demonstration of over 20,000 people in New York’s Chinatown organized by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. A timeline of events, along with loaned archival photographs, network news broadcasts, and selections from *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The New York Times Magazine* will offer historical context.

More than two decades later, the Arab Spring, anti-Kremlin protests in Russia, and Occupy Wall Street evoke images of the largest pro-democracy demonstrations in Chinese history. Amidst this renaissance of popular protest, *June 4, 1989: Media and Mobilization Beyond Tiananmen Square* offers a chance to reflect critically on the inseparable roles of protester, journalist, and spectator at home.

About Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)

MOCA’s mission is to celebrate the living history of the Chinese experience in America, to inspire our diverse communities to contribute to America’s evolving cultural narrative and civil society, and to empower and bridge our communities across generations, ethnicities and geography through our dynamic stories.

Our story began in 1980 as the community-based New York Chinatown History Project and we have since grown to encompass the journeys of a wide range of Chinese American communities from around the globe and around the corner. Since late 2009 when we moved into our new beautiful space designed by Maya Lin and located at the crossroads of SoHo and Chinatown, our exhibitions, programs and audiences have grown in size and scope. This was made possible by a unique public/private partnership involving collaborative government efforts to rebuild Lower Manhattan in the aftermath of 9/11 and MOCA’s growing community of donors led by its Board of Trustees. For more info and upcoming events, please visit www.mocanyc.org.

These exhibitions have been made possible with public funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State’s 62 counties and through the generosity of museum members.

Hours:

Monday: 11am-5pm

Thursday: 11am-9pm

Friday: 11am-5pm

Saturday and Sunday: 10am-5pm

The Museum is closed to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, except for prescheduled

group tours and special programs.

Target Free Thursdays: Free gallery admission is through the generosity of Target.

Admission:

General Admission: \$7

Seniors (65+ with ID) and Students (w/school ID): \$4

Children under 12 in groups less than 8: Free

MOCA Members: Free

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