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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Two-Day Symposium Features Artists and Scholars
Addressing Gender and Culture in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media**
September 25-26, 2009

Columbia College Chicago presents a two-day symposium entitled "Gender, Identity and the Crossing of Cultures in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media," with artist presentations and scholarly panels that explore gender in contemporary Chinese art, globalization of the art discourse, and the hybridism of cultures. The symposium will showcase presentations by academics, artists, gallerists, and curators from China, Europe and the United States. It will take place on Friday, September 25 from 6-8pm and Saturday, September 26 from 9am-5pm, at Columbia's Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th Floor. Admission is free. *(Please see website for complete schedule of symposium presentations: www.colum.edu/focuschina.)*

On Friday, September 25 from 6-8pm, there will be artists' presentations by **Fang Ling-an, Olivo Barbieri, Shi Guorui, Speedism, and Dan Wang**, followed by a discussion with local and international curators **Natasha Egan, Davide Quadrio, and Wu Hung**.

On Saturday, September 26 from 9am-12:30pm, the issues of gender, identity and cross-cultural relations will be discussed in two academic panels, chaired by **Professor Wu Hong**, University of Chicago, and featuring **Defne Ayas** (independent curator), **Paola Iovene** (University of Chicago), **Davide Quadrio** (independent curator), **Julie Walsh** (Walsh Gallery, Chicago), **Peggy Wang** (University of Chicago), and **Sasha Welland** (University of Washington). After the presentations, from 2-5pm, there will be a screening of two films: "**My Dear**" by **Gu Yaping**, about two women from Beijing's contemporary art world (2007, 82 mins), and "**Wasted Feelings**" by **Daria Menozzi**, filmed in Tiananmen Square in October 1995 (1997, 17 mins).

The symposium is held concurrently with two closely related exhibitions. The Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP) will present "Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai and Its Contemporary Material Culture," an exhibition of contemporary photography and video inspired by Shanghai. The Hyde Park Art Center will present "Shanghype," a collaborative video installation by artists from China and Europe. Artists and curators from both exhibitions will actively participate in the symposium.

The symposium is organized by Elena Valussi, Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences, and presented in collaboration with the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media and the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago.

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FEATURED PARTICIPANTS:

Defne Ayas, independent curator, co-founder of ArtHub, active in Shanghai and New York;
Olivo Barbieri, Milan-based visual artist and photographer;
Natasha Egan, Associate Director and Curator, Museum of Contemporary Photography;
Fang Ling-an, Chicago-based visual artist;
Paola Iovene, Asst Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Chicago;
Davide Quadrio, independent curator, founder of Bizart and ArtHub based in Shanghai and Bangkok;
Shi Guorui, Beijing-based photographer;
Speedism, artist collaborative of Julian Friedauer and Pieterjan Ginckels based in Belgium;
Julie Walsh, Director of the Walsh Gallery, Chicago;
Dan Wang, Chicago-based visual artist, printer and writer;
Peggy Wang, Ph.D. Student, Art History Department, University of Chicago;
Sasha Welland, Asst. Professor in Women Studies and Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle;
Wu Hung, Professor, Art History Department, University of Chicago, and curator.

WHAT: Symposium: Gender, Identity and the Crossing of Cultures in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media

WHEN: Friday, September 25. 6-8pm.
Saturday, September 26. 9am-5pm.

WHERE: Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Avenue, 8th Floor

COST: Free and open to the public

MORE INFO: 312.369.8829 or www.colum.edu/institutewomengender

Presented by: Columbia College Chicago's Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, and the Museum of Contemporary Photography.

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