PLACED IN CHINA

DECEMBER 9 - JANUARY 11, 2006

walsh GALLERY

opening reception: DECEMBER 9, 5 - 9pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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"Placed in China" - First Survey of Chinese Experimental Photography in a Chicago Gallery

Chicago, IL - Walsh Gallery will exhibit "Placed in China," work from nine historical trendsetters of Chinese experimental photography. "Placed in China" is a performance-based survey of contemporary experimental Chinese photography. All the photographers use either the implied movement of themselves or others in space as a source of inspiration. The artists, all well-established in China and abroad are **RongRong & i n r i**, **Ma Liuming**, **Miao Xiaochun**, **Song Dong**, **the Gao Brothers**, **Hong Hao**, **Hong Lei**, and **Wang Wei**. The opening will be Friday, December 9 from 5 to 9 pm.

Since artists were unable to use or create images of themselves during the cultural revolution, many contemporary Chinese artists use performance photography as a means of self-discovery. "Placed in China" examines these photographers' search for who they are and how they fit into a rapidly changing society.

Chinese photography as a fine art form has really only been around since the early 1990s. Although there is a long history of photography in China, it served more a social and political function than a documentary and artistic one.

This all changed when Rong Rong, one of the founders of Chinese photography, used his camera in Beijing's "East Village" in the early 1990s. He began to document the beginning of performance art by such now-legendary figures as Ma Liuming and Zhang Huan.

This exhibit includes photo collaborations between **Rong Rong** and his Japanese wife **i n r i**. RongRong and i n r i have created documents of their own nude performances within varied Chinese landscapes.

Ma Liuming is one of the earliest Chinese performance artists. In his recent photographic explorations, Mr. Ma poses nude before audiences around the world and invites the audience to come up and take a photo with him. In these performances, Ma Liuming becomes Fen-Ma Liuming, his alternate feminized persona. The results, printed in huge contact sheet format, resemble film stills in which the audience members engage in both mundane and bizarre acts like taking their clothes off or fondling the artist.

continued

top Ma Liuming, *Fen-Ma Liuming in Munich, 1999* (detail), digital C-print, 94.5" x 50", 1999.

center RongRong & i n r i, *In Helsinki, Finland, 2001*, silver gelatin print, 41" x 41", 2001.

bottom Gao Brothers, *A Mass in Tiananmen Square,* digital C-print, 29" x 20", 1995.

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T — SA 10:30–5:30 www.walshgallery.com