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MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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MCA DENVER PRESENTS *CITY LIGHT* BY CHINESE ARTIST YANG FUDONG

DENVER, January 5, 2009 — MCA DENVER proudly presents Yang Fudong's video *City Light* in the Lu & Chris Law New Media Gallery. The exhibition opens January 13, 2009 and runs through May 10, 2009. A public reception will be held on Friday, January 16 from 6-10pm. This exhibition is curated by Cydney Payton, who says of this piece, "While Yang is a master at creating epic films that challenge the viewer with their vast themes and cinematic length, *City Lights* offers a discreet and humorous aesthetic vision that appeals to all."

City Light by Chinese artist Yang Fudong follows a young man and his doppelganger on a day in the city. A fantastic detective story with restrained comic appeal takes place when the protagonists enter into a film noir with all the requisites. The video switches from black & white to color while the score changes from a Chinese melody to a Bossa Nova. The plot is detached from the liveliness of the cityscape, creating scenes that are serenely beautiful yet humorous.

Yang's films can be characterized by an atmosphere of ambivalence that is descriptive of an overall attitude towards life in twenty-first century China, especially among young Chinese intellectuals. Since 1989—the year of the Tiananmen Square massacres—young people have been less and less involved in politics. In many of his films, Yang captures this generation's blasé stance towards the politically evolving China.

Yang's work has been critically praised for its rapturous pictorial arrangements. In a 2004 review for *The New York Times*, art critic Holland Cotter wrote, "Inspired by Chinese films of the 1930s and 40s, he [Yang Fudong] creates an atmosphere of painterly beauty, saturated with romance and regret, that is visually absorbing and entirely his own." The films echo Jean-Paul Sartre and Samuel Beckett's existential conflation of man and nature. Yang's work has also been noted as a reinterpretation of traditional Chinese landscape painting—a more ornamental form of making images through design and pattern.

Yang Fudong was born in Beijing, China in 1971. He lives and works in Shanghai, China. In 1995, he graduated from China Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou where he studied painting. After exploring photography, he began working with film and video in the late 1990s. His work has been exhibited in the 2003 and 2007 Venice Biennale, the first Moscow Biennial in 2005, and the fifth Shanghai Biennial in 2004. He has shown at many noted institutions, including Kunsthalle Wien, Austria (2005); MoMA Film at Gramercy Theatre, New York, NY (2005); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2005); and ARC/Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France (2003).



Above: Yang Fudong. *City Light* (film still), 2000, color video with sound, 6 minutes. Courtesy Marian Goodman Gallery, New York.

Currently on View

Adam Helms
August 12, 2008 – January 18, 2009
Paper Works Gallery

Terry Maker
September 16, 2008 – January 18, 2009
Project Gallery

Jane Hammond
August 19, 2008 – February 8, 2009
Photography Gallery

Jonas Burgert
October 7, 2008 – March 1, 2009
Promenade Space

Damien Hirst
October 7, 2008 – August 30, 2009
Large Works Gallery

Yang Fudong: *City Light*
January 13 – May 10, 2009
Lu & Chris Law New Media Gallery

About MCA DENVER

Following the European tradition of the Kunsthalle, MCA DENVER is a non-collecting institution acting as an incubator for art and ideas, artistic exchange and dialogue. As Denver's first institution devoted entirely to contemporary art, MCA DENVER inaugurated its new environmentally sustainable facility designed by David Adjaye on October 28, 2007. The 27,000 square foot space, located in the Lower Downtown area, is on track to receive the distinction of Gold level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The design of the building supports rather than defines the Museum's mission and demonstrates the Museum's commitment to sustainability. MCA DENVER marks David Adjaye's first public building in the U.S. as well as his first contemporary art museum worldwide.

Since opening, MCA DENVER has welcomed over 60,000 visitors to the new building to experience the Museum's exhibition program. Continuing our investment in exhibitions of artworks by local, national and international artists, MCA DENVER has five distinct galleries, three spaces for education, multiple sites for special projects/commissioned works and one live art and lecture hall as potential sites for work in all media. These galleries and spaces are envisioned as platforms for multi-level curatorial possibilities. The exhibition areas are thus seen as a curatorial rubric for interaction between artists, works of art, curatorial practice and interpretive dialog.

Location, Hours and Ticket Prices

MCA DENVER is located at 1485 Delgany on the corner of 15th Street and Delgany, DENVER, CO. Tel. (001) 303 298 7554. Museum hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10:00AM to 6:00PM, Friday 10:00AM to 10:00PM and Saturday and Sunday 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The Museum is closed on Monday. General admission to the Museum is \$10.00, senior and student tickets are \$5.00. MCA DENVER offers \$1 off admission to visitors who come to the Museum via public transportation. Children under the age of 5 are admitted free. The first Saturday of every month is Penny Saturday, a day when MCA DENVER invites everyone to take part in the Museum experience for only one cent.

Support

MCA DENVER receives annual support for its exhibitions and programs from members of the Director's and President's Circles, as well as the following generous supporters at the \$5,000 level and above: A.B. Hirschfeld Press, Inc.; AIA DENVER; Caulkins Family Foundation; Colorado Council on the Arts; Compton Foundation, Inc.; Connie Burwell White & William W. White Foundation; Consulate General of the Netherlands; Continuum Partners, LLC; The Denver Foundation; Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado; General Service Foundation; KEW Realty; KeyBank; Komorebi, LLC; Liberty Global, Inc; Liberty Media Co.; Mondriaan Foundation; NSO Press; The Ponzio Family Foundation; Riverfront Park Community Foundation; Room & Board; Sage Hospitality Resources; SCFD; Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation; Three Tomatoes Catering; and US Bank.

For more information about programs and exhibitions please visit www.mcadenver.org or contact Daniele Robson at (001) 303 298 7554 ex.224 or danieler@mcadenver.org.