ARTIST SONG DONG'S COLLABORATION WITH HIS MOTHER DOCUMENTS THE HISTORY OF THEIR FAMILY IN A LARGE-SCALE AND LOVING TRIBUTE INSTALLED IN MoMA'S MARRON ATRIUM

**Projects 90: Song Dong**
June 24–September 7, 2009
The Donald B. and Catherine C. Marron Atrium, second floor

**New York, June 23, 2009**—As part of its ongoing Elaine Dannheisser Projects series, The Museum of Modern Art presents **Projects 90: Song Dong**, featuring the large scale installation *Waste Not* (2005) by the Beijing-based artist, on view for the first time in the United States. Initially a collaboration with his mother, Zhao Xiang Yuan (1938-2009), the installation—which covers nearly 3,000 square feet of The Donald B. and Catherine C. Marron Atrium—comprises all the contents of her home, amassed over the course of 50 years during which the concept of “waste not” (*wu jin qi yong* in Chinese) was a requisite guideline for survival for the generation that lived through the hardships of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1969/76).

Song Dong (b. 1966) initiated the collaboration with his mother in an attempt to wrest her from her grief following the death of his father in 2002. The installation includes the house itself, countless cups, pots, basins, folded and piled up shirts, buttons, ballpoint pens, bottle caps, bags, tubs, toothpaste tubes, neckties, 10-liter oil flasks, handbags, skipping ropes, stuffed animals, and dolls. Sorted by type, the materials are lined up alongside one another, forming a miniature cityscape that viewers can navigate around and through. In the process of organizing and arranging the goods, the baggage of the past was unpacked and his mother’s intended goal of *waste not* was fulfilled as these materials now have another life in the work. Tragically, Zhao died unexpectedly earlier this year, adding poignancy to the neon sign hanging in the installation that reads “Dad, don’t worry, mum and we are fine.” It remains a family project as the artist is assisted in the installation by his sister, Song Hui, and his wife Yin Xiuzhen.


**ABOUT THE ARTIST**
Song Dong, who lives and works in Beijing, has been at the forefront of conceptual art in China since the 1990s. Known for combining aspects of performance, video, photography, sculpture, and installation, Song’s works are often ephemeral and utilize modest materials that explore notions of transience and impermanence in personal, local, and global spheres. He has long been part of a traditional, tight-knit Beijing community, and his work reflects the everyday concerns and realities of his neighbors. Song graduated from the Normal University in Beijing in 1989 and has exhibited widely in Asia and abroad. Recent exhibitions include *Song Dong* (2008) at the Zendai Museum of

**ABOUT THE CURATORS**


**ABOUT THE ELAINE DANNHEISSER PROJECTS SERIES**

Created in 1971 as a forum for emerging artists and new art, the Elaine Dannheisser Projects series plays a vital part in MoMA’s contemporary art programs. With exhibitions organized by curators from all of the Museum’s curatorial departments, the series has presented the work of close to 200 artists to date. For further information on the series, including a listing of all Projects artists, please visit [www.moma.org/projects](http://www.moma.org/projects).

**SPONSORSHIP**

The Projects series is made possible by the Elaine Dannheisser Projects Endowment Fund and by the Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art and the JA Endowment Committee. Additional support for this exhibition is provided by the Annie Wong Art Foundation.

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Public Information:
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Wednesday through Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Closed Tuesday

Museum Admission: $20 adults; $16 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; $12 full-time students with current I.D. Free for children 16 and under. Free for members. Target Free Friday Nights 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Film Admission: $10 adults; $8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. $6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only)