

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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LANDMARK SERIES PREMIERES THE WORK OF A NEW GENERATION OF CHINESE VIDEO MAKERS

**Videos by the Post-Tiananmen Square "Sixth Generation"
On View for the First Time in the United States**

**Series Opens with Wu Wenguang, Leader of the New Documentary Movement,
Discussing Independent Documentary Making in China**

New China/New Visions
November 24–December 14, 1997
Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

The Chinese democracy movement of the 1980s, and its climactic moment in Tiananmen Square, had an enormous impact on Chinese youth. Since then a number of young film and video makers have been making work about or provoked by the ideas and events of this powerful time. These "Sixth Generation" directors—many of them members of an emergent independent video culture made possible by the recent availability of camcorders—are presenting a fresh outlook and often unexpected image of China as an urbanized society undergoing deep cultural and societal changes.

New China/New Visions, a program of fourteen video works selected by guest curator Bérénice Reynaud to be presented at The Museum of Modern Art from November 24 to December 14, 1997, surveys this exciting movement for the first time in the United States. The series, which brings together important works by key Chinese

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video makers working today, features primarily documentaries, but also includes a number of music videos starring rock singer and counter-cultural icon Cui Jian. Together these works, made outside official channels, provide an unusually candid look at contemporary Chinese life, particularly as it is lived by marginalized youth and artists.

Wu Wenguang, who is currently in the Northeastern United States on a grant from the Asian Cultural Council, will open the series on November 24 with "The Way as a Documentary," a *Video Viewpoints* event at which he will discuss his work and the challenges of making documentaries in China today.

Please note: Wu Wenguang is available for interviews throughout the month of November. (See below for details.) Complete program notes, including descriptions of each work, are enclosed with this release. Draft copies of the curator's essay are available on request.

New China/New Visions includes two episodes from Shi Jian and Chen Jue's *Tiananmen Square* (1991), banned in 1991 from domestic and international distribution, and Wu Wenguang's *Bumming in Beijing—The Last Dreamers* (1990)—both of which try to come to terms with the widespread unrest among younger Chinese in the 1990s—as well as works by Zhang Yuan, Duan Jinchuan, Li Hong, and U. S.-based directors Yau Ching and Victor Huey.

Of related interest to *New China/New Visions* is the Museum's online project *Stir-Fry: A Video Curator's Dispatches from China*, currently posted on the Museum's Web site (www.moma.org), which features the daily reports of Barbara London, Associate Curator, Department of Film and Video, during her September visit to Beijing,

Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Guangzhou. It includes journal entries, photographs, and audio and video interviews conducted with members of the Chinese media art scene.

Following its screening at the Museum, *New China/New Visions* will tour to several exhibition venues here and abroad under the aegis of Electronic Arts Intermix, a New York-based distributor of independent video.

New China/New Visions is organized by Bérénice Reynaud, permanent faculty member at the California Institute of the Arts and U. S. correspondent for the French film journal *Cahiers du Cinéma*, in collaboration with Barbara London, Associate Curator, and Sally Berger, Assistant Curator, Department of Film and Video, The Museum of Modern Art. This exhibition is supported in part by the Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art. The program organizers also wish to thank the Asian Cultural Council.

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For more information, photographs, a draft copy of the curator's essay, screening cassettes, or to interview Wu Wenguang, please call Graham Leggat at 212/708-9752. To view *Stir-Fry: A Video Curator's Dispatches from China*, or for more information on other Museum programs, visit our Web site at www.moma.org.