

**ARTIST LEE MINGWEI COLLABORATES WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR MoMA PROJECTS EXHIBITION****An Installation Drawn From Personal Tours Will Be on Display at MoMA QNS**

Projects 80: Lee Mingwei, The Tourist
September 25–November 24, 2003
MoMA QNS, Long Island City, Queens

NEW YORK, August 2003—For *The Tourist*, the 80th exhibition in MoMA's Projects series, the artist Lee Mingwei (Taiwanese, b. 1964), in partnership with the public, explores the idea of tourism as a radical form of world citizenship. Earlier this summer Lee issued an open call for "tour guides" to take him—the "tourist"—to sites of their choosing around New York's ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Participants selected Coney Island, Tribeca, and the Apollo Theater in Harlem, among other places, and some tours have already taken place. Both tourist and guides document their experiences in digital snapshots and record their conversations on tape. Lee's installation, on view at MoMA QNS from September 25 to November 24, 2003, will change on a weekly basis during the course of the exhibition as more tours are conducted. The installation comprises side-by-side projections of the photographic stills, fragments of the conversations, and keepsakes from the tours. The artist demonstrates that sightseeing is the product of a series of actions in which artist and public, local and visitor, and past and present continually overlap. *The Tourist* is organized by Roxana Marcoci, Assistant Curator, Department of Photography.

Marcoci states: "In *The Tourist*, Lee Mingwei articulates travel as a form of community that imagines alternative possibilities of togetherness outside the national space. Tourists and locals are the crucibles of a new type of community that is not exclusively nationalist but cosmopolitan." For this exhibition, Lee identifies himself as a tourist within the greater New York metropolis. By virtue of his position he is able to introduce viewers to new perspectives. Taiwan, or for that matter any other place the artist calls home, is not just a place "out there." It is also part of an international circuit that includes New York. By keeping explicit ties with more than one place at a time, Lee interprets travel as a wider mode of belonging in the world.

The exhibition is made possible by Yageo Foundation, Taiwan. Additional funding is provided by National Culture and Arts Foundation, Taiwan.

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About the Artist

Lee Mingwei was born in Taichung, Taiwan, and currently lives and works in New York City and Berkeley, California. Solo exhibitions include *Harvard Seers Project*, Harvard University, Cambridge (2002); *Living Room Project*, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston (2000); *Emphatic Economies*, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, and Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale (2000); *The Sleeping Project*, Lombard-Freid Fine Arts, New York (2000); *Lee Mingwei 1994 to 98*, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Cleveland (1999); and *Way Stations*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1998). Lee's work was exhibited at the Taiwan Pavilion at the 2003 Venice Biennale and at the Taipei Biennial (2000) and Asia Pacific Triennial (1999). He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors in Textile Arts from California College of Arts & Crafts and an MFA in Sculpture, Concentrating in New Genre Public Art, from Yale University, Graduate School of Fine Arts.

About the Curator

Roxana Marcoci joined The Museum of Modern Art in 1999 as Curatorial Assistant, Janice H. Levin Fellow in the Department of Painting and Sculpture. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she holds a Ph.D. in 20th-Century Art History and Criticism from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. For MoMA, Marcoci was the curatorial assistant of *Alberto Giacometti* (2001) and curatorial coordinator of *Tempo* (2002) and *Max Beckmann* (2003). She was the curator of *Counter-Monuments and Memory*, part of *Open Ends*, the third cycle of MoMA 2000 (2000), and cocurator of *Projects 73: Olafur Eliasson—Seeing yourself sensing* (2001). She also organized *Clockwork 2000* (Clocktower/P.S.1, 2000) and was curator of *Here Tomorrow* (Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, 2002). Marcoci has written widely on modern and contemporary art and contributes to *Art Journal*, *Cabinet*, *Trans*, and *Index*.

About the Projects Series

Created in 1971 as a forum for emerging artists and new art, the Projects series has played 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. The Projects series is coordinated by Laurence Kardish, Senior Curator, Department of Film and Media. For further information on the series, including a listing of all Projects artists, please visit www.moma.org/projects.

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