

NEWS RELEASE

University of Maine
Museum of Art

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Digital images available

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ART EXHIBITION **April 27 - June 30, 2007**

Bangor, Maine - The University of Maine Museum of Art is pleased to present two exhibitions at the Museum beginning April 27.

Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath The Lake Photographs by Linda Butler portrays the massive cultural change in rural China prompted by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River and explores daily life in a fragile landscape of tradition and change, where more than a million people were moved, and cities, towns, ancient temples, burial grounds, and other historic sites are now submerged. In conjunction with this exhibit, the museum is co-sponsoring an April 2007 exhibit at the Bangor Public Library. ***CHINA: Exploring the Interior 1903-1904*** features photographs that were collected during a Carnegie Expedition to China in 1903/04. These two exhibitions illuminate the regional changes that occurred in China during the dawn of two different centuries. In ***Barbara Sullivan Repair: The Workshop***, Barbara Sullivan creates life-size objects and scenarios to design narratives of our everyday tasks. Maine's foremost fresco artist, Barbara Sullivan's bas relief installations use this traditional age old medium in a contemporary and amusing way.

Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake Photographs by Linda Butler

From April 27 to June 30, The University of Maine Museum of Art will present a major exhibition of 56 documentary photographs by Linda Butler portraying the massive cultural change in rural China prompted by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River.

The Yangtze has inspired poets, writers and artists for centuries by its power and changing moods. *Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake* explores daily life in this fragile landscape of tradition and change, where more than a million people were moved, and cities, towns, ancient temples, burial grounds, and other historic sites are now submerged.

On eight three-week trips to the Yangtze between 2001 and 2003, Linda Butler photographed the people and their surroundings, as well as the river and its grandeur, before it was changed irrevocably by the designs of man.

Astonished by the transformation of the region, Butler documented the dismantling of dense cities brick by brick, while new cities sprang up on the hillsides high above the river. Tunnels were blasted out of the mountains, modern roads were constructed, and enormous suspension bridges were built to span the Yangtze's expanse.

Yet in the middle of all this change, some families continued to farm, cook, fish, and dig for coal as they had for centuries. To record the change, Butler's photographs focused on the specifics: the textures of history and the evolving way of life in the villages and towns. Since foreign journalists had been given only restricted access to the river, she knew that many of her photographs were to become the last visual record of river life.



When she returned in the fall of 2003 for her final trip, Butler found the river that had once been a great highway transformed into a silent lake, and much of the human activity had shifted to the hills above. Container vessels had replaced the barges and charming individual fishing boats, and the economy of the new cities suffered as tourism and business declined. When the Three Gorges Dam's reservoir reaches its full height in 2009, only time and hindsight will reveal whether the project is determined to be a tragedy, a comedy of errors, or a triumph of technology.

Linda Butler has worked as an independent photographer for more than 25 years and is known for her explorations of other cultures. She has had more than 40 one-person exhibitions in the United States, Canada and Japan. Her photographs have appeared in exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and the Yokohama Museum of Art in Japan.

Major funding for *Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake, Photographs by Linda Butler* is provided by significant grants from the Davis Family Foundation and the Fisher Charitable Foundation. Generous funding is also provided by Merrill Bank, Bangor Daily News, WBRC Architects and Engineers and The Cultural Affairs Committee and the Arthur R. Lord Trust.

Barbara Sullivan Repair: The Workshop

Barbara Sullivan's work draws from the Renaissance medium fresco (the art of painting on freshly spread moist lime plaster with water-based pigments) to portray everyday objects in a slightly humorous and thoughtful manner. Sullivan's quirky, cartoon like depictions of domestic bliss usually celebrate the mundane world we all inhabit. The works are essentially paintings in low-relief with the colorful objects in the installation playing off of each other.

Repair: The Workshop contains familiar objects such as tools, a chainsaw, a deer trophy and an oversize ball of twine. The depiction is at once painterly yet at the same time a celebration of the rituals of everyday life revealing a certain magic in the commonplace.

Barbara Sullivan currently teaches at University of Maine at Farmington and resides in Solon, Maine. Her work has been included in exhibitions at the Portland Museum of Art, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Colby College Museum of Art, and the L.C. Bates Museum. She holds an MFA from Vermont College and a BA from University of Maine at Farmington.

Museum of Art

www.umma.umaine.edu

Hours: Monday – Saturday 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: \$3.00 per person

No charge for Museum Members and UM students with Maine Card

Directions

From the North

I-95, Exit 48 - Broadway, (Bangor, Brewer)

Turn left at light onto Broadway, Rt. 15

At the 4th light (1.2 m), turn right on to State St., Rt. 2

At the light at the bottom of the hill (.1 m), turn right on to Harlow St. (a one-way street)

Merge into left lane, turn left into parking lot of Norumbega Hall.

From the South

I-95, Exit 48 - Broadway, (Bangor, Brewer)

Turn left at light on to Broadway, Rt 15.

At the 3rd light (1.1 m), turn right on to State St., Rt. 2

At the light at the bottom of the hill (.1 m), turn right on to Harlow St. (a one-way street)

Merge into left lane, turn left into parking lot of Norumbega Hall.

For additional information, please call 561.3350.