

For Immediate Release
September 2009

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**VIDEO WORK BY GAO SHIQIANG AND CHEN QIULIN
EXPLORES THE COLLISION OF
TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN CHINA
On view October 11, 2009–January 10, 2010**

Newport Beach, CA—*Video Work by Gao Shiqiang and Chen Qiulin* pairs work by two contemporary Chinese artists whose visions capture the collision of tradition and modernity in China in distinct ways. In Gao Shiqiang's epic video *Butterfly Lovers* (2007), a tragic love story from ancient folklore reverberates among three couples across time, and serves as an allegory for the new millennium. Set in a timeless mountain environment, the fraught emotional landscape between partners of different social status and education is expressed through their imploring verbal exchanges. Chen Qiulin's *Colour Line* (2006) is a sublime meditation on rapid urbanization and development in contemporary China, fusing a documentary format with dream-scape performance. The artist—dressed as a latter-day angel wandering through the streets and detritus of a town in transition—has created a testament of the Three Gorges Dam project that has relocated myriad villages, towns and cities and more than one million residents of the Yangtze River Valley (including the artist's family). *Video Work by Gao Shiqiang and Chen Qiulin* is organized by OCMA curator Sarah Bancroft and held in conjunction with *Ancient Paths, Modern Voices: A Festival Celebrating Chinese Culture* produced by Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonic Society of Orange County. This exhibition is on view at OCMA from October 11, 2009–January 10, 2010.

“We are pleased to collaborate with Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonic Society of Orange County on this extraordinary celebration,” notes OCMA Director Dennis Szakacs, “This presentation marks the first time that Gao Shiqiang and Chen Qiulin are shown together in the United States and their poetic works explore the unprecedented social and cultural transformations taking place in China.”



Gao Shiqiang, *Beautiful Lovers* (still), 2007; video/film; courtesy of the artist and Max Protetch Gallery, New York

Gao Shiqiang was born in Shandong, China in 1971, and is a professor in the Experimental Art Department at the National Academy of Art in Hangzhou. Since 1996, his work has been featured in video festivals and exhibitions in China, Germany, Korea, Spain, and the United States, including the 2008 Guangzhou Triennial and the 2006 Shanghai Biennale.

Born in Hubei, China in 1975, Chen Qiulin graduated from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute with a degree in printmaking. She received the Emerging Artist Prize in 2005 at the first Biennale Internationale d'Art Contemporain Chinois de Montpellier. She was included in the exhibition *Displacement: The Three Gorges Dam and Contemporary Chinese Art* at the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, and will be the subject of a solo exhibition opening fall of 2009 at The Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles.



Chen Qiulin, *Colour Line* (still), 2006; video/film; courtesy of the artist and Max Protetch Gallery, New York

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Video Work by Gao Shiqiang and Chen Quilin is organized by Sarah Bancroft, Curator, Orange County Museum of Art. *Ancient Paths, Modern Voices: A Festival Celebrating Chinese Culture* is produced by Carnegie Hall, New York, and presented on the West Coast by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County at the Orange County Performing Arts Center, part of Segerstrom Center for the Arts and other partner institutions. The West Coast Festival is underwritten by South Coast Plaza and the Segerstrom Foundation.

ABOUT ANCIENT PATHS, MODERN VOICES: A FESTIVAL CELEBRATING CHINESE CULTURE

Presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County and Carnegie Hall, this fascinating celebration of Chinese culture includes performances by major artists and ensembles appearing at Carnegie Hall, as well as partnerships with Southern California cultural institutions. For more details, please visit www.philharmonicsociety.org/chinafestival.



MUSEUM INFORMATION

Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach is located at 850 San Clemente Drive. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, with extended hours Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$12 adults; \$10 seniors and students; children twelve and under and OCMA members are free. For more information, call 949.759.1122 or visit www.ocma.net.