

ART GALLERY NEWS RELEASE

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(press & tour inquiries)

Tufts University Art Gallery

at the Aidekman Arts Center

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EDWARD BURTYNSKY: *The China Series*

January 19 — April 1, 2007

PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, January 19, 5:30–8:30pm

ARTIST'S TALK - *free and open to the public*

Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm

VOICE YOUR VISION! GUIDED TOURS

Saturdays, 2:30pm

(January 27; February 10; February 24; March 10; March 31)



MEDFORD, MA – The Tufts University Art Gallery proudly presents *Edward Burtynsky: The China Series* from January 19 to April 1, 2007, showcasing twenty large-scale, newly completed works on five themes related to China's booming development over the past decade: manufacturing; recycling; shipbuilding; urban renewal; and the Three Gorges Dam.

The renowned Canadian states that:

“These images are meant as metaphors to the dilemma of our modern existence; they search for a dialogue between attraction and repulsion, seduction and fear. ..Our dependence on nature to provide the materials for our consumption and our concern for the health of our planet sets us into an uneasy contradiction. For me, these images function as reflecting pools of our times.”

Where once Burtynsky stood as an apolitical documentary photographer, he now endeavors to raise awareness of the consequences of development. While unexpectedly beautiful, Burtynsky's China is a vast, modern example of the unfolding, potentially disastrous consequences of globalization. China's transformation into an industrial superpower and global economic player has brought exponential population growth, a dramatic shift from a rural to a manufacturing existence, and unprecedented urban development and environmental degradation. The Three Gorges Dam (one of the exhibition's foci) is the world's most extravagant and environmentally altering engineering feat, a great source of pride for China, and a microcosm of the relationship between progress and consequence.

This exhibition was organized by the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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