

UAM CSULB NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL SHAMBROOM PICTURING POWER

January 22 - April 5, 2009

LONG BEACH — *PAUL SHAMBROOM PICTURING POWER*, opening January 22 at the UAM, is the first exhibition to bring together selections from all five of Shambroom's most important—and highly acclaimed—series to date: *Factories* (1986-1988), *Offices* (1989-1990), *Nuclear Weapons* (1992-2001), *Meetings* (1999-2003), and *Security* (2004-current). Shambroom, has made an indelible mark on the landscapes of photography and political discourse. His series-based color photographs reveal both local and global manifestations of power, depicting scenes in industrial, business, community, and military environments.

"My interest throughout my entire career has been the place of the citizen within the state. I still think of myself as highly patriotic. Being a participant in a democracy means questioning and challenging. I think that's the highest form of patriotism." — Paul Shambroom

In the late 1980s, Shambroom created images of manufacturing sites and office spaces where many Americans spend the majority of their day, from gritty industrial factories, to immaculate biotech labs and empty office cubicles. For his next series, Shambroom gained access to long-restricted nuclear sites, where he produced eerie images of slumbering bombs and immaculate, empty war rooms. For *Meetings*, Shambroom traveled to municipal meetings in small communities as far flung as Bernice, Louisiana and Baltic, South Dakota, to document public officials in a formal portrait style. His most recent work documents security training at facilities across the country. In this series, past and future, reality and fiction, blur as each figure creates a picture of threat and resistance in our post-9/11 age. While diverse in subject matter, Shambroom's series all record and demystify secret and little-seen loci of power. His images are remarkable both for their stark portrayal of such places, and as evidence of his access to the sites. Negotiating this access in an open and democratic manner is a hallmark of Shambroom's practice.



PAUL SHAMBROOM PICTURING POWER, is a traveling exhibition organized by curator Diane Mullin of the Weisman Art Museum (Minneapolis, MN), and co-curators Christopher Scoates (Director, University Art Museum, CSU, Long Beach) and Helena Reckitt (The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto). A fully illustrated catalogue featuring essays by the exhibition curators and scholar Dick Hebdige, and an interview with the artist by Stuart Horodner accompanies this exhibition.

-more-

Paul Shambroom was born in Teaneck, New Jersey, in 1956. He studied liberal arts at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. His work has been exhibited and collected by numerous museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Shambroom received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Creative Capital Foundation, the Penny McCall Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. He currently lives and works in Minneapolis.

EVENTS

- January 29 2 pm Press Preview
 5-6 pm Members Preview
 Gallery talk with Paul Shambroom and curators Diane Mullin and Christopher Scoates
 6-8 pm Public reception
- February 10 UAM@noon, 12:15-1 pm
 Gallery talk with curator Christopher Scoates

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Sunday 12-5 PM, Thursday 12-8 PM. Closed Monday.

PAUL SHAMBROOM PICTURING POWER will be **CLOSED** March 17-24, 2009 for a private event in the museum. UAM is closed for all University holidays - please check the web site for updated information. Entrance fee \$4.00; FREE to UAM members and CSULB students, faculty and staff.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Significant support for this exhibition and catalogue was provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. UAM exhibitions are made possible by the Bess Hodges Foundation, Constance W. Glenn Fund for Exhibition and Education Programs, Instructionally Related Activities Fund, and WIDE ANGLE Fund for Art + Technology.

Traveling venues:

Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 8 - April 20, 2008
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio, May 10 - September 14, 2008
Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, Georgia, October 3 - November 22, 2008

Image Credit: Paul Shambroom, *Level A Hazmat suit, yellow* ("Disaster City" National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, Texas Engineering and Extension Service [TEEX], College Station, Texas), 2004, Pigmented inkjet on canvas with varnish, 63 x 38 inches, Courtesy of the Artist and the Artist Pension Trust, NY.

Media Contact:

Sarah G. Vinci, Public Relations Director
562.985.4299
svinci@csulb.edu

Press images of UAM exhibitions are available on our FTP site - please send an email requesting directive on how to access. Thank you.

-end-