

## NEARLY 200 PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEGENDARY FRENCH FILMMAKER CHRIS MARKER ON VIEW AT THE WEXNER CENTER THIS SUMMER

### *EXHIBITION TO TOUR INTERNATIONALLY*

Columbus, OH—**Chris Marker: *Staring Back***, an exhibition of almost 200 photographs taken over the course of six decades by the enigmatic and influential French filmmaker, is on view **May 12–August 12** at the Wexner Center for the Arts. This show, organized by the Wexner Center and the first such exhibition of Marker's photographs, consists of images selected by the artist himself from his own archive, including black-and-white portraits of individuals—some celebrated, most not—that Marker has encountered during the course of his world travels.



Image courtesy of Chris Marker

Notes Wexner Center Media Arts Director and exhibition organizer Bill Horrigan: "We're extremely honored that Marker has entrusted us with this rare opportunity to bring to light some of the photo treasures from his vast personal archive. Those who know him only from his films will see some familiar faces, but beyond that, *Staring Back* embodies Marker's boundless curiosity about the men and the woman with whom he's come face to face, armed with his camera, throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America."

A **catalogue** accompanies the exhibition and features texts by Marker, Horrigan, and Molly Nesbit, scholar and contributing editor to *Artforum*. The English translation of Marker's most recent film, *The Case of the Grinning Cat*, as well as selected photo annotations, are also included. The 160-page catalogue is co-published with MIT press.

**The exhibition will tour to Peter Blum Gallery in Chelsea, New York in early September 2007, and to Museum für Gestaltung Zurich March 5–June 22, 2008.**

### **MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

Divided into four sections, and featuring music hand-picked by Marker, *Staring Back* is organized around the idea of the faces Marker has seen in his global travels, and of the faces that have in turn witnessed his own observant gaze—"I stare" and "They stare," as Marker puts it. Central to the exhibition are his depictions of political demonstrations he's witnessed and participated in,

from Algerian independence protests in 1962, to the Pentagon march in 1967, to May 1968 in Paris, and continuing to 2006 in a stunning series devoted to the sustained demonstrations by French young people against punitive employment legislation. Interspersed throughout the exhibition are photographic traces of his inimitable films, including *La jetée*, *Letter from Siberia*, *The Sixth Face of the Pentagon*, *Cuba Si!*, *Le fond de l'air est rouge*, *Sans Soleil*, and *The Case of the Grinning Cat* (which screened at the Wexner Center last fall), among others. Although some of the portraits depict well-known individuals (such as Simone Signoret and Akira Kurosawa), most are of unidentified citizens to whom Marker and his camera were drawn in the course of his global progress through Asia, South America, Scandinavia, Africa, Russia, and elsewhere. The exhibition also includes a selection of photographs of animals.

### **ABOUT CHRIS MARKER**

Born in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, Chris Marker is one of the most influential and important filmmakers to emerge in the post-war era. After time spent in the French resistance, Marker appeared on the Paris cultural landscape as a writer and editor, winning admiration for the *Petite Planete* travel books he edited for *Seuil* beginning in 1954. Parallel to his written commentary, Marker also became identified for his uniquely expressive non-fiction films, eschewing traditional narrative technique and working from a deeply political vein, as in the boundary-breaking *Sans Soleil*. Marker began garnering international recognition in 1962 with the science-fiction short film *La jetée*, a hugely influential story of nuclear experimentation and time travel. Marker has also produced acclaimed media installations, including *Owls at Noon Prelude: The Hollow Men*, at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 2005, and *Silent Movie*, which the Wexner Center commissioned in 1995 through its Residency Award program, and which subsequently traveled to over a dozen other venues internationally.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

**THE EXHIBITION:** *Chris Marker: Staring Back*, nearly 200 photographs from six decades from the legendary French filmmaker's archives, including images of political demonstrations across the globe

**DATES:** May 12–August 12, 2007. Also on view: *Robert Beck: dust*, Zoe Leonard: *Analogue* and *State Fare: Three Ohio Artists*

**LOCATION:** Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 North High Street at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue at The Ohio State University. Parking in Ohio Union Garage just south of the Center.

**GALLERY HOURS:** Tuesday–Wednesday and Sunday 11 am–6 pm; Thursday–Saturday 11 am–8 pm. The galleries are closed on Monday.

**ADMISSION:** Free.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** [wexarts.org](http://wexarts.org) or (614) 292-3535

Media contact: Erik Pepple, [epepple@wexarts.org](mailto:epepple@wexarts.org) or 614 688-3261