

MARY____ 527 WEST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK NY 10001
RYAN____ T 212-397-0669 F 212-397-0766
GALLERY__ WWW.MARYRYANGALLERY.COM

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Lin Tianmiao: Focus
Wu Moonching: Photographs

March 13 — May 3, 2008

Reception: March 20, 6 to 8:30 pm

This exhibition is presented as part of Asian Contemporary Art Week, March 15 — 24, 2008.

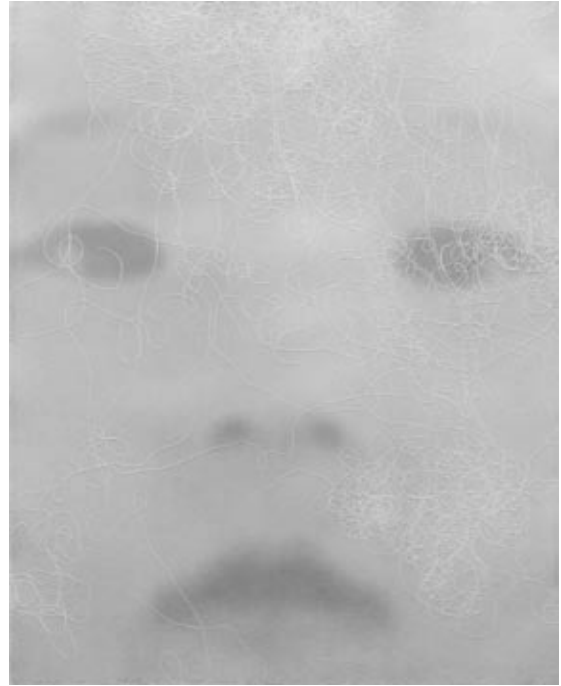
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Mary Ryan Gallery is pleased to present *Lin Tianmiao: Focus*. Lin is one of China's best known contemporary women artists and her work has been exhibited widely across Asia and internationally.

This exhibition will feature prints and unique works on paper from two series, *Focus* and *Seeing Shadows*, completed during her residency at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute in 2006. Printed on handmade paper, the works blend lithography, embossing, and the incorporation of embedded elements, lending them unique texture and dimensionality.

Each work in the *Focus* series is based on the magnified image of a significant person in the artist's life. The images—monumental in scale—are cropped and blurred, veiling them in anonymity. Each image conveys such softness and sensitivity that they evoke someone remembered, rather than someone real. On the surface of these images, and in some cases within the paper itself, Lin layers formations of thread, styrofoam balls, and embossed impressions of needles. Materials and their materiality are essential to Lin's craft. She uses thread both as means to bind her work together and to set her images apart.

*Focus XXIII*A, 2006, lithograph, screen print and embossed ink on handmade paper, 50 x 40 inches



In these particular works, Lin was able to manipulate the paper as it was being made. She experimented with printing on freshly dipped papers, adding paper pulp for richer texture, and applying Japanese lace-making techniques to wash away holes made in some of the prints. The resulting works are haunting, delicate, and arresting.

Seeing Shadows is a four-paneled series that presents a panoramic view of a traditional Chinese interior in disrepair. This image preserves old Beijing, as many of the old structures are being demolished in pursuit of a newer, more modern city. While exploring space rather than people, Lin continues to use embedded thread and embossed ink, along with silkscreen and lithography in this series.

Lin Tianmiao was born in Taiyuan Shanxi Province, China in 1961. She studied Fine Art at Capital Normal University in Beijing, and then at the Art Student's League in New York. For nearly a decade she and her husband, artist Wang Gongxin, lived in New York City, where she designed textiles until the couple moved back to Beijing in 1994. She has participated in group exhibitions across the globe, most recently *Global Feminisms* (2007) at the Brooklyn Museum in New York. This is her first gallery exhibition in the United States. Lin's work has been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and is currently on view in the exhibition *Multiplex: Directions in Art, 1970 to Now*.

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Rare Earth: ¿Quién ganará el Súper Clásico?, 2003/2007, C-print, 40 x 30 inches, edition of 5

Mary Ryan Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent photographs by Brooklyn-based artist Wu Moonching. The exhibition, her first at Mary Ryan Gallery, will feature photographs taken with a medium format camera from her *Rare Earth* and *Freshwater* series.

Wu seeks out particular scenes and elements that possess a kind of beauty that she feels can be enhanced by photography. Each of her photographs reveals something new about a familiar or perhaps overlooked subject. Film and digital photography can pick up subtleties in color and light that would be lost on the naked eye, which allows Wu to produce images that are strikingly intimate.

In *Rare Earth*, a series that focuses on architecture from around the world, Wu presents her man-made subjects as if they were portraits. She chooses architecture that is generally anonymous, with little signage. Buildings, framed by empty sky, are cropped and shot from oblique angles, giving them a sense of grandeur. In *Rare Earth: Borg TV* a fragment of building with a flat black face and white border, resembling a television or computer monitor, rises from the bottom

of the frame. With her camera positioned at obscure angles, Wu distorts space to accentuate the architectural fragments that define the building. Emerging out of vague space the architecture appears heroic, while simultaneously vulnerable in its isolation.

The *Freshwater* photographs present abstract views of water's effect on the natural environment, using the same stylistic techniques as the *Rare Earth* works. 10,000 and 10,003, both on view in this exhibition, are images taken of white marble in sulfuric water (natural hot spring) in Taiwan. The stillness of the scene combined with Wu's sensitive treatment of the subject, make one of nature's most corrosive processes seem delicate and serene. Though the images appear distorted, Wu has done nothing to manipulate them. In choosing subjects that lend themselves to photography, Wu is able to draw out what evades the human eye, leaving color intact, and rarely cropping her images once they have been captured.

For more information please contact Jordan Karney at 212.397.0669 or jordan@maryryangallery.com.

Wu Moonching was born in Sun-Moon-Lake, Taiwan in 1974. She received her BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art and has exhibited throughout New York and internationally. Her artist's books are in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, NY, the Cleveland Museum of Art, OH, and in the Database at the Museum of Modern Art, NY.