

# the contemporary

ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
UNTIL: NOVEMBER 30, 2008

SUBJECT: EXHIBITIONS AT THE CONTEMPORARY INCLUDE ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE PHOTOGRAPHY AND A LOOK BACK AT THE INSTITUTION'S THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

**OCTOBER 3 - NOVEMBER 30, 2008**  
**OPENING RECEPTION, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7 - 9 PM**  
**PAUL SHAMBROOM: PICTURING POWER**  
**HOT FRESH NOW (AND THEN): 35 YEARS**

**CONTINUING THROUGH NOVEMBER 3**  
**BILLBOARD PROJECT: SOLDIER BY SUZANNE OPTON**  
**LOCATION: MARIETTA STREET BETWEEN BANKHEAD**  
**AVENUE AND BOSS STREET, ATLANTA 30318**

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The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center presents gallery exhibitions **Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power** and **Hot Fresh Now (and Then): 35 years** from October 3 to November 30, 2008. The exhibitions open with a reception on Friday, October 3 from 6 – 9 pm. On Saturday, October 4 at 11 am, Paul Shambroom will discuss his work at the Contemporary. On view on Marietta Street is **Suzanne Opton's The SOLDIER Billboard Project** through November 3.

**Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power** is a mid career view of the photographer's most well known series, including those picturing nuclear facilities, office environments, factory workplaces, and small town city council meetings. This exhibition presents Shambroom's photographs as significant contributions to the larger discussion of the nature of power. A firm believer in both the capacity of photography to raise awareness and the importance of an empowered citizenry, Shambroom asserts that his pictures do not forward any single agenda but instead exist to initiate dialogue and self-education.

**Hot Fresh Now (and Then): 35 years** is a look back at the Contemporary's first thirty-five years. **Hot Fresh Now (and Then): 35 Years** is an attempt to capture some of the spirit and sensibilities that shaped how this organization has done just that. The exhibition brings together a myriad of materials from the Contemporary's archive of art—documentary photographs, ads, reviews, correspondence, and ephemera—all evidence of a collective passion for ideas, objects, and opinions.

**Billboard Project: SOLDIER** is photographer Suzanne Opton's documentation of young American soldiers on furlough from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Taken at Fort Drum Army base in New York the photographs present men and women in repose; their faces in extreme close-up are both intimate and overwhelming, with a strong sculptural presence. "Some of them look serene and some of them look shell-shocked," says Opton. "They're all terribly vulnerable." Presented in the public realm, as billboards, the images offer Americans new ways to consider these young people who represent us internationally. **Billboard Project: SOLDIER** is also being presented by the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO; DiverseWorks Artspace, Houston, TX; 21c Museum and International Contemporary Art Foundation, Louisville, KY; and Forecast Public Art, St. Paul, MN.

Founded in 1973, the Contemporary is a non-profit multidisciplinary arts organization dedicated to excellence, experimentation and education in all forms of contemporary art. Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, 535 Means Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30318, phone (404) 688-1970, [www.thecontemporary.org](http://www.thecontemporary.org).

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