

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GUESTS ARE INVITED TO PARTY "ON THE BEACH"

WITH PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD MISRACH

The Art Institute of Chicago Hosts Second Snap Photography Benefit Gala 9/14/07

Misrach's *On the Beach* Exhibition Premieres September 15–November 25, 2007

The Art Institute of Chicago's Photography Department will host one of the most anticipated parties of the year, **Snap**, in celebration of the museum's upcoming premiere of the exhibition *Richard Misrach: On the Beach* on **September 14, 2007**. Co-chairs for the gala are Chicago-area community leaders and photography collectors Karen Frank and Ellen Sandor. Frank is a prominent member of the Committee on Photography at the Art Institute, and new media artist Sandor is Chair of the Board of the Gene Siskel Film Center. The evening's corporate sponsor is LaSalle Bank.

Last year, the first Snap gala founded the Photography Gala Endowment and raised more than \$170,000 for future acquisitions; 450 guests attended the event.

Snap begins with a special VIP dinner and auction. Guests will enjoy cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner with featured artist Richard Misrach at 6:30 p.m. The VIP portion of the gala concludes with a live auction at 7:45



p.m. This year's auction includes portrait sessions with acclaimed Chicago artists **Dawoud Bey, Patty Carroll, and Ben Gest**. Tickets for the VIP dinner and auction are \$500.

The sea-and-sun evening continues with the *On the Beach* party and exhibition preview in the museum beginning at 8:00 p.m. Guests, who are encouraged to dress in tropical chic, will be treated to exotic cocktails and sumptuous savories. In addition to being the first to see



the nationally touring exhibition, guests will also be able to meet Misrach. Guests will get “snapped” throughout the evening in photoboos, against themed backdrops, and by paparazzi. Individual tickets to this portion of the evening, the party at the museum from 8:00 to 11:00

p.m., are \$125, and can be purchased by calling **(312) 443-7250** or by e-mailing [snapgala@artic.edu](mailto:snapgala@artic.edu). A portion of the proceeds from Snap will enhance the Photography Gala Endowment for acquisitions of photographs at the Art Institute of Chicago. For more information, please check out the **Snap** gala Web site: [www.artic.edu/snap](http://www.artic.edu/snap).

### **Richard Misrach: On the Beach Exhibition**

Richard Misrach, the renowned color photographer of the desert, has turned his eye—and his camera—to water. In the past five years, he has been working on a series of pictures of beaches, the ocean, sunbathers, and swimmers, shot from above. Dramatically scaled—some are as large as 6 x 10 feet—the photographs envelop the viewer with a strangely disorienting view and vast expanses of water and sand.

Although lush and colorful, they also evoke a post-apocalyptic world, perhaps fitting for pictures made



after 9/11 (the title *On the Beach* references Nevil Shute's Cold War novel about nuclear holocaust). This traveling exhibition of over 20 large-scale works is the first museum show of the series and will premiere at the Art Institute, before embarking on a national tour that includes a stop at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.

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IMAGE CREDITS:

All Snap gala photography courtesy of Cheri Eisenberg.

Richard Misrach (American, born 1949). *Untitled #696-05*, 2005 (detail). Digital chromogenic color print; 180.3 x 245.1 cm. Courtesy Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, Marc Selwyn Fine Art, Los Angeles and Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York.

**The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park.**

**SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS FROM MAY 31–AUGUST 31, 2007:**

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

**10:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday and free after 5:00 p.m.**

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Please check [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu) before your visit.

**Admission: Adults, \$12.00; children 12 and over, students, and seniors, \$7.00; children under 12 free; members always free.** Ford Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee.

City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Check Us Out" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago. To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at: <http://www.artic.edu/aic>

**The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.**