

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adou *Samalada*

September 3 - October 17, 2009

Opening Reception:

Thursday, September 10, 2009, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

San Francisco—In *Samalada*, Adou's first solo exhibition at Haines Gallery and on the West Coast, the artist explores the people and places of his native Sichuan Province in China. The series title is a direct translation of the local name for Da Liang Mountain, a barren area bordered by rivers and mountains. Inspired by the documentary photography of Julia Margaret Cameron, Robert Frank, and August Sander, Adou depicts the Yi ethnic minority on Da Liang Mountain in a collective representation of a vanishing culture and of himself. Haines Gallery will exhibit a selection of large-scale photographs of approximately 51 x 41 inches as well as those of an intimate scale of 24 x 20 inches. The large-scale gelatin prints were produced at Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing, a non profit artist run exhibition space founded by internationally recognized photographers Rong Rong and Inri, and the first of its kind in mainland China. The printing facility at Three Shadows was made available to the artist to create these compelling large-scale prints that would otherwise be impossible for him to produce.

The terse titles of Adou's photographs, *Man and Sheep*, *Girl and Tree*, *At the Foot of a Mountain*, *Family Pushing Wheelbarrow*, all 2006, give no clues to the grand mysteriousness of the images. The artist's use of expired rolls of film creates mottled textures and streaked surfaces that evoke a melancholic nostalgia for the past. His photographs seem perfectly in tune with his statement: "I don't know why I take photographs; if I knew I would not keep taking them. I don't know the significance of life; if I knew I would not keep on searching."



Witch and Chicken, 2006, Silver Gelatin Print, 51 x 41.75 inches

Adou, who was born in 1973 in Mianying, Sichuan Province, graduated from the Fine Arts Department of the Sichuan Aba Normal College in 1995. He then worked as a design and creative director in the advertising field for nearly ten years. His photographs have been shown throughout China and Japan. A monograph of Adou's work is included in the multi-volume set *Outward Expressions, Inward Reflections* (Three Shadows Press, 2007). In 2009, Adou was the first winner of the Three Shadows photography award. He currently lives and works in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China.

Adou will be included in the exhibition *Photography Now: China, Japan, Korea* at The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, September 12 – December 20, 2009. All works are courtesy of Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York, where Adou had his U.S. premier exhibition in January 2009.