

# OTIS

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aperturefoundation



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Contact: Kathy MacPherson, [gallerinfo@otis.edu](mailto:gallerinfo@otis.edu), 310.665.6909. Images available.

The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design is pleased to present the exhibition:

***Shaolin: Temple of Zen, Photographs by Justin Guariglia***  
**February 2 – March 29, 2008**

**Public Reception: Saturday, February 2, 5-7pm**

With special kung fu and calligraphy demonstration by Shaolin Monk Shi De Chao from Henan, China, followed by book signing hosted by Hennessey + Ingalls Art & Architecture Books.

Events in conjunction with the exhibition (see detailed information below):

**Monday, February 4, 7:30pm, Ben Maltz Gallery**

Conversation with photographer Justin Guariglia of *National Geographic Traveler*; Gene Ching, Associate Publisher of *Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine*; and Craig Reid, martial arts film historian, fight choreographer and martial artist.

**Monday, February 25, 7:30pm, Ben Maltz Gallery**

***Cultural Representation in the Media***

A panel discussion with Félix Gutiérrez, Lena Chao-Young, Clint Wilson; led by Otis Director of Art History Parme Giuntini.

**Friday, February 29, 8pm, Ahmanson Bldg B06**

**A Night of Hong Kong Kung Fu Cinema**

Double feature screening of *The 36<sup>th</sup> Chamber of Shaolin* (1978) and *Eight Diagram Pole Fighter* (1983) both directed by Liu Chia-Liang; with introduction by Craig Reid.

## **Exhibition Information**

***Shaolin: Temple of Zen*** is a photography exhibition based on the book of the same name by photographer Justin Guariglia published by Aperture. The exhibition premieres at the Ben Maltz Gallery on Saturday, February 2, 2008 with a public reception from 5-7pm that includes a walk-through with the photographer as well as a special kung fu and calligraphy demonstration by Shaolin Monk Shi De Chao from Henan, China, followed by book signing. On view through March 29, this exhibition and publication are organized by the Aperture foundation, a not-for-profit organization devoted to photography and the visual arts, and presented at the Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design. Additional sponsorship provided by Hahnemühle Fine Art.

*Shaolin: Temple of Zen* is an exhibition and publication that documents, for the first time in history, the exceptionally private warrior monks of the fifteen-hundred-year-old Shaolin Temple in the Henan province of China, renowned for its association with Zen Buddhism and martial arts. Comprised of 99 pieces, including 6 video installations, *Shaolin: Temple of Zen* brings to light the secretive society of the Chinese Buddhist sect dedicated to preserving a form of kung fu

known as a “vehicle of Zen.” Revealing the monks’ devotional disciplines and capturing insightful portraits of the venerated warriors, the works offer an exclusive opportunity to explore the energy and spirit of Shaolin’s unique practice.

Guariglia’s work explores the nature of ‘qi’ (pronounced *chee*), the concept of a universal energy, as well as the themes of ritual, spirituality, and Eastern philosophies through still photography and video. Carmen Winant of *Philadelphia Weekly* asserts that “the imagery simultaneously seethes with energy and casts a meditative silence. It evokes both the ancient and the contemporary.”

A student in China in the mid 90s, Guariglia took an interest in Taoist and Buddhist philosophies, spending eight years studying the mystery behind the Shaolin art form. He earned the trust of the Shaolin monks to create a compassionate record of the art form and those who are the keepers of these traditions. Notably, Guariglia’s publication features a foreword written by the Abbot of the Shaolin Temple, Shi Yong Xin.

### **Justin Guariglia: Biography**

Guariglia was born in Maplewood, New Jersey in 1974 and lived and worked in Asia for almost a decade before returning to live in New York City in 2006. He is a Contributing Editor to *National Geographic Traveler Magazine* and has worked for *Smithsonian* and *Newsweek*. Guariglia was nominated for the International Center of Photography’s Young Photographer Infinity Award, received an Eddie Adams Workshop award, and was named one of the top “30 Young Photographers under 30” by *Photo District News*. In 2003, Guariglia began collaborating with artist Zoe Chen, previously a fashion designer for Issey Miyake. Their recent works are gelatin silver print composite pieces and videos comprised of Guariglia’s photographs of the Shaolin monks. [www.guariglia-chen.com](http://www.guariglia-chen.com)

Expanded Events Information:

**Monday, February 4, 7:30pm, Ben Maltz Gallery**

**Conversation: *Shaolin: Temple of Zen***

Join photographer Justin Guariglia in a conversation with Gene Ching and Craig Reid about this exhibition and the traditions of China’s Shaolin monks. **Justin Guariglia** (see Bio above), **Gene Ching** is the Associate Publisher of *Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine* and [www.KungFuMagazine.com](http://www.KungFuMagazine.com). He has authored hundreds of articles and videos on the martial arts; much of his research is devoted to Shaolin. He is a disciple of Shaolin Monk Shi Decheng and bears the name Xinglong. **Craig Reid, Ph.D.** was the first Caucasian stuntman/actor in Chinese kung-fu movies in 1979, lectured on combat choreography at Yale School of Drama and was Sam Raimi’s fight choreographer on *Spy Game* and a fight directing apprentice on CBS’s *Martial Law*. Reid was the screenwriter on the award-winning film *Red Trousers: The Life of The Hong Kong Stuntmen*, and is a freelance journalist writing on Asian martial arts cinema.

**Monday, February 25, 7:30pm, Ben Maltz Gallery**

**Panel Discussion: *Cultural Representation in the Media***

Otis Director of Art History Parme Giuntini moderates a panel discussion with Professors Félix Gutiérrez, Clint C. Wilson II, and Lena Chao-Young about the challenges of how cultural identity is constructed by the media. **Parme Giuntini, Ph.D.**, has been Director of the Art History program at Otis since 2003. She is co-author of *GARB: A Fashion and Culture Reader* (2007), which examines the interplay between fashion, dress, culture, and identity. **Lena Chao-Young, Ph.D.**, is a professor of Communication Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. She has worked as Media Director for the ACLU of Southern California, and as Public Service Coordinator for KFWB Newsradio. She was also on the founding board of the Media

Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA), a watchdog group that monitors the media nationally for balanced and accurate portrayals of Asian Pacific Americans. Currently she serves as the Director for the Asian and Asian American Institute at Cal State, L.A. **Félix Gutiérrez, Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Journalism and Communication in the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and a Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity. In 2004, Dr. Gutiérrez, along with Drs. Wilson and Chao-Young co-authored the book, *Racism, Sexism, and the Media: The Rise of Class Communication in Multicultural America*, which was awarded the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence in Research About Journalism. His scholarship and publications since 1972 have focused on racial diversity and media. **Clint C. Wilson II, Ed.D.**, is Professor of Journalism in the John H. Johnson School of Communications and Graduate Professor in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Howard University. He is Director of the Black Press Institute and his book *A History of the Black Press*, was cited as among the 35 "most significant books of the 20th century" by *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*.

**Friday, February 29, 8pm, Ahmanson Bldg B06**  
**Screening: A Night of Hong Kong Kung Fu Cinema**

Join Craig Reid in the presentation of a double feature of renowned martial arts film director Liu Chia-Liang's films.

***The 36<sup>th</sup> Chamber of Shaolin (1978)*** This award winning film traces the true-life story of Monk San Te (portrayed by Gordon Liu), one of the fabled Ten Tigers of Shaolin. This film opens the Shaolin temple doors and changed the direction Hong Kong kung-fu cinema.

***Eight Diagram Pole Fighter (1983)*** Starring Alexander Fu Shen in his last film, this cinematic treat chronicles the heroics of the real-life Yang family men, which gave rise to the 9th century legendary Yang women warriors who successfully lead the Chinese army against foreign invaders.

**Location:** Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

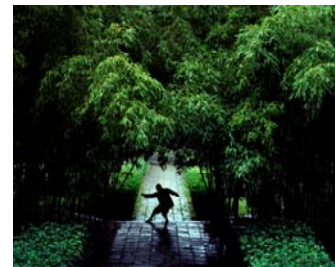
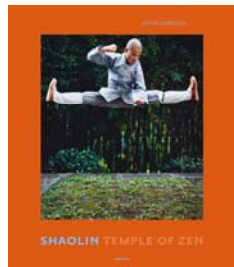
**Admission and Parking:** Free. Visitor parking in structure on La Tijera.

**Hours:** Tue-Sat 10am-5pm; Thu 10am-7pm. Closed Sun, Mon, and major holidays (Feb 16-18)

**Gallery Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Thu 10am-7pm

**Information:** 310.665.6905, [galleryinfo@otis.edu](mailto:galleryinfo@otis.edu), [www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery](http://www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery)

**Gallery Tours:** 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups.



L-R: Photographer Justin Guariglia; Cover of *Shaolin: Temple of Zen* (Aperture, October 2007) by Justin Guariglia; *Shi Yan Lang, Tong Jian Quan (Through the Shoulder Fist)*, Justin Guariglia from *Shaolin: Temple of Zen* (Aperture, October 2007); *Shi Yan Xian (Small Hong Fist)*, Justin Guariglia from *Shaolin: Temple of Zen* (Aperture, October 2007).

Top: *Wenseng monk Shi Yong Ji*, Justin Guariglia from *Shaolin: Temple of Zen* (Aperture, October 2007)

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