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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2008

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PAUL CHAN'S COMPLETE SERIES "The 7 Lights" TO PREMIERE AT THE NEW MUSEUM

New York, NY... The New Museum is pleased to present New York-based artist Paul Chan's first major exhibition in America and the U.S. premiere of "The 7 Lights" (2005-2007), a series of large-scale digital projections and drawings that compose an hallucinated version of the seven days of creation. "The 7 Lights" series will be accompanied by other examples of Chan's work, including new videos and drawings. A specially conceived project will extend the show beyond the Museum's walls, as Chan anonymously spreads thousands of posters throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. "Paul Chan: The 7 Lights" will be on view from April 9 through June 29, 2008, and is curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Director of Special Exhibitions.

With his videos, installations, and drawings, Chan has emerged as one of the most original voices in contemporary art. Since their first appearance in 2005, Paul Chan's *Lights* have captured the attention of critics and public alike. Presented individually in biennials and exhibitions across the globe, they have rarely been seen in New York. By bringing all of Chan's *Lights* together and expanding the exhibition with new works, the New Museum's show will offer a unique occasion to explore the world of an artist whose animations engage with such fundamental themes as politics, poetry, war, death and desire. Combining images of stunning simplicity with complex reflections on the idea of illumination, the passing of time, and the writing of disaster, "The 7 Lights" unfold like a series of enigmatic encounters with light and darkness.

With slowly revolving forms and hypnotic reverberations, "The 7 Lights" conjures a world in which objects ascend in space and are dismantled by invisible forces, while bodies tragically fall through the air. Projected on floors and walls like the cast of light from an open window or the supernatural manifestation of a parallel universe, Chan's theater of shadows describes apocalyptic landscapes and visions, but also trembles with a sense of haunting beauty. Inspired by structuralist films, Baroque paintings, obsolete and emerging technologies alike, Chan constructs a narrative of catastrophe that is both timeless and unsettlingly familiar. "The 7 Lights" evoke a stark historical past but remain indisputably current, with references that point to contemporary tragedies such the war in Iraq and 9/11.

"The 7 Lights" possess an almost sacred resonance that takes on a deeper tone when viewed in New York, the city that has inspired much of Chan's oeuvre.

For his first solo exhibition in a New York institution, Paul Chan has realized new works for the exhibition that touch upon the subjects of sexuality and freedom. Chan will also install works in the lobby and other

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interstitial spaces of the Museum and has created a poster project that spreads mysterious messages on the walls of Manhattan and Brooklyn—thousands of anonymous street poems that will read as prophetic visions, promises, and threats.

Paul Chan lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include the Serpentine Gallery, London; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia; and Portikus, Frankfurt. His work was also featured in important group exhibitions, including the 2006 Whitney Biennial, the 10th Istanbul Biennial (2007), the 54th Carnegie International (2004), and the 8th Lyon Biennial (2008). Chan's single channel videos have been screened in film festivals worldwide, including the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. In November 2007 He collaborated with Creative Time and the Classical Theatre of Harlem to stage free site-specific performances of Samuel Beckett's play, *Waiting for Godot* in New Orleans.

CATALOGUE: The first major monograph devoted to the artist's work accompanies the exhibition. *Paul Chan: The 7 Lights* is a 158-page volume produced in collaboration with the Serpentine Gallery. The publication includes color reproductions of Chan's complete oeuvre to date, with essays and interviews by George Baker, Paul Chan, Massimiliano Gioni, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Adam Phillips, and Kitty Scott.

LEAD EXHIBITION SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

"Paul Chan: The 7 Lights" is made possible by the lead support of Dimitris Daskalopoulos Collection, Greece and Randy Slifka. Additional generous support provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, Julia Stoschek, and the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibitions Fund. Support for the accompanying publication has been provided by the J. McSweeney and G. Mills Publications Fund at the New Museum.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is the first and only contemporary art museum in New York City and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program unrivaled in the United States in its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum is the destination for new art and new ideas.

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