



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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THE ART GALLERY AT UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH EXHIBITS PHOTOGRAPHS BY LIU BOLIN



Liu Bolin (Born 1973). *Hiding in the City No. 94 – In the Woods*, 2010. C-Print.

Courtesy Klein Sun Gallery, New York. © Liu Bolin

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (July 28, 2014) – The Art Gallery at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will present **In Plain Sight: Photographs by Liu Bolin** through Sunday, August 31. **A gallery talk on the exhibition will take place Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception.** The Art Gallery is located in the Bruyette Athenaeum on the University’s main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford. The gallery talk and reception are free of charge and open to the public.

Contemporary Chinese artist Liu Bolin has become known world wide for photographs in which he camouflages himself to disappear into the background. Often called the “Invisible Man,” he exposes tensions between society’s rapidly-changing environment and the individual.

Liu Bolin began his photographic series *Hiding in the City* in 2005 after the Chinese government razed his Beijing studio in the urban renovations undertaken in advance of the Beijing Olympics. Painting himself to disappear into the background of his demolished studio, he protested the treatment of artists by the state, which did not consult them or consider their needs. Noting that the backgrounds he chooses show the many social problems that have emerged in the course of China’s modern development, he states, “From my perspective, the meaning of human beings has been constantly annihilated in modern society.

While the living environment is improving, people are effacing themselves — what a great contradiction!”

The execution of these photographs is painstaking and requires a team of collaborators. After selecting a location having a strong symbolic relationship to politics, culture, or the environment, Liu chooses where he will stand. With the assistance of his collaborators, he carefully paints himself to blend into the background, sometimes standing in one spot for many hours before his team is ready to take the final photograph. With each new work he asks himself, “Why would making myself invisible here cause people to think?”

The Art Gallery, University of Saint Joseph is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.usj.edu/artgallery.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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