

3-19-2007

# Yangtze Remembered

Museum of Art

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**THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED  
LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE  
GRANT APPLICATION**

*Original*

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.  
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

<b>I. Applicant/Organization:</b>	<b>Museum of Art</b>
<b>II. a. Responsible Organization Officer:</b>	Wally Mason
<b>b. Title:</b>	Director
<b>c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone):</b>	Norumbega Hall/561.3350/w@umit.maine.edu
<b>III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):</b>	
<b>Art Exhibition:</b>	
<i>Yangtze Remembered, The River Beneath the Lake Photographs by Linda Butler</i>	
Presented at the Museum of Art in Bangor, April 27 – June 30, 2006	
<b>Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with <u>detailed, itemized budget</u>. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.</b>	
<b>IV. a. Total funding required for program:</b>	\$15.596
<b>b. Amount committed by applicant organization:</b>	\$ 4,211
<b>c. Amount committed by</b>	\$
<b>d. Amount requested from other funding sources</b>	\$ 6,394*
<b>e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:</b>	\$ 4,991
Signature of responsible organization officer/date:	<i>Wally Mason</i> 03/19/07
DATE	SIGNATURE

**\*MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM OF ART**

*\$ 2750*

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS**

5/04

*Next week  
122 Alumni  
Kadlison  
Dan  
Gredalson*

*Appropriate form  
+ time factor  
? printing*

Norumbega Hall  
40 Harlow Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401  
207.561.3350  
Fax 207.561.3351

March 26, 2007

Cultural Affairs Committee  
c/o The President's Office  
200 Alumni Hall

Dear Cultural Affairs Committee:

The Museum of Art respectfully requests funding for the presentation of the art exhibition *Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake* photographs by Linda Butler during the spring semester of the 2006/2007 academic year. The exhibition which includes 56 photographs, will be of significant cultural, historical and educational advantage to the entire university community. The exhibition will be presented from April 27 through June 30, 2007.

The primary role of the Museum of Art is to bring to the University and the external community, vital, investigative, and scholarly exhibitions; while simultaneously contributing to the dialog within the international arts community by organizing exhibitions, producing relevant collateral materials, and scheduling critically significant traveling exhibitions. However, the exhibitions and outreach programs, while imperative to the mission of the Museum of Art, are not self-sustaining. It is in support of these activities that the Museum seeks support from the Cultural Affairs Committee for 31% of the project's expenses.

Implementation: Admission, tours, and related programs are free for UM students. The exhibition will include: extensive didactic labeling, catalog, and explanatory wall panels when relevant. Press releases are sent to local, state and regional media, local schools, as well as arts related and art specific publications. Exhibition announcements reach a current mailing of over 8000, including 2700 sent on campus to faculty, professional, and classified employees. Educational outreach will consist of directed tours for university courses, K-12 students, civic and senior citizen groups. Public presentations, an educational conference, and lectures will further enhance the educational mission of the Museum during this project. A half-page advertisement will be placed in the Photograph magazine.

Evaluation: The Museum of Art has implemented specific evaluation tools to assist in future programming and enhanced professional presentation. The staff meets at the end of an exhibition/program to determine the relative success or failure of a project. Criteria include: attendance, scholarly content of the exhibition, visual appeal of the works of art, the installation, impact of schedule on staff, educational value, quality of publications, marketing results, community interest, and staff observations. The value of implementing this evaluation strategy will lead to improved wall text, more professional labels and gallery guides, as well as increasingly effective directed tours.

Please see the attached budget, visual and narrative support documents for the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wally Mason  
Director

UMMA



**Project: Art Exhibition, Museum of Art**

***Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake Photographs by Linda Butler***

April 27 – June 30, 2007

From April 27 to June 30, The University of Maine Museum of Art will present a major exhibition of 56 documentary photographs by Linda Butler portraying massive cultural change in rural China prompted by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River.

The Yangtze has inspired poets, writers and artists for centuries by its power and changing moods. *Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake* explores daily life in this fragile landscape of tradition and change, where more than a million people were moved, and cities, towns, ancient temples, burial grounds, and other historic sites are now submerged.

On eight three-week trips to the Yangtze between 2001 and 2003, Linda Butler photographed the people and their surroundings, as well as the river and its grandeur, before it was changed irrevocably by the designs of man. Astonished by the transformation of the region, Butler documented the dismantling of dense cities brick by brick, while new cities sprang up on the hillsides high above the river. Tunnels were blasted out of the mountains, modern roads were constructed, and enormous suspension bridges were built to span the Yangtze's expanse. Yet in the middle of all this change, some families continued to farm, cook, fish, and dig for coal as they had for centuries. To record the change, Butler's photographs focused on the specifics: the textures of history and the evolving way of life in the villages and towns. Since foreign journalists had been given only restricted access to the river, she knew that many of her photographs were to become the last visual record of river life.

When she returned in the fall 2003 for her final trip, Butler found the river that had once been a great highway had been transformed into a silent lake, and much of the human activity had shifted to the hills above. Container vessels had replaced the barges and charming individual fishing boats, and the economy of the new cities suffered as tourism and business declined. When the Three Gorges Dam's reservoir reaches its full height in 2009, only time and hindsight will reveal whether the project is determined to be a tragedy, a comedy of errors, or a triumph of technology.

Linda Butler has worked as an independent art-photographer for more than 25 years and is known for her explorations of other cultures. She has had more than 40 one-person exhibitions in the United States, Canada and Japan. Her photographs have appeared in exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and the Yokohama Museum of Art in Japan.



**Project: Art Exhibition, Museum of Art**

*Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake Photographs by Linda Butler*  
April 27 - June 30, 2006

**BUDGET**

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Total Project Expenses:

Participation Fee	\$2,500
Artist Lecture (stipend, airfare, hotel, meals)	2,150
Website update	375
Bulk Mailing	572
Wall Text	129
<b>Printing</b>	<b>4,950*</b>
Exhibition label preparation/material	220
Pro-rated Fine Art Climate-controlled shipping	3,300
Advertising	1,400
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,596</b>

? date  
of Lecture

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Total Project Revenue:

Museum of Art E&G (27%)	4,211
Members of the Museum of Art (41%)	6,394
<b>TOTAL REQUEST TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (32%)</b>	<b>4,991*</b>
<b>Total Project Revenue</b>	<b>\$15,596</b>

**TOTAL REQUEST TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (32%)                      \$4,991\***

\*Item in the expenses category for which CULTURAL AFFAIRS funding is requested is in bold type.

\$ 2500 -  
3000



Linda Butler  
*Carpenter's House, Beishi, 2001*  
Gelatin silver print

This carpenter constructed his own home on a hillside overlooking the Yangtze in 1982. He designed the house, poured his own concrete bricks, built all the window frames, and made the furniture by hand. As a hobby, he raised bees that pollinated his tangerine trees. It broke his heart to leave his dream house and see it destroyed.



Linda Butler  
*Carpenter's House in Ruins, Beishi, 2003*  
Gelatin silver print

When the carpenter returned to the ruins of his dynamited house (above), only a ceramic vessel for collecting rainwater remained intact (middle right). The sign "175-M" on the hillside in the background indicates the reservoir level in 2009. Six months after this photo was taken, the land was under fifteen feet of water and the carpenter had begun constructing a new home half a mile away.



Linda Butler  
*Tree Removal, Old Wushan, 2002*  
Gelatin silver print

The thriving commercial district of old Wushan was completely demolished and the businesses were moved to the new town. To prepare for the destruction, the trees that lined the main street were pulled down and the timber was used in construction.



Linda Butler  
*Pig on a Motorcycle*, 2001  
Gelatin silver print

The pig was still alive when this image was taken and may have been fed fermented mash to make him more docile. He was in transit to the nearest large town to be sold. Fattened for a year, most pigs weigh about 330 pounds (150 Kilograms) when sold and fetch about \$125. Raising pigs is the main source of cash income of farmers who make as little as \$300 annually. In the background, leaves from a Chinese cabbage were hanging; they are soaked in salt water, dried, and eaten as an appetizer.





Linda Butler  
*Temple and New Bridge, Da Fosi, 2002*  
Gelatin silver print

The name “Da Fosi” refers to three giant Buddhas carved from the stone cliff inside of the temple. The Buddha near the river’s edge is a smaller, fourth Buddha. The three Buddhas in the interior were damaged during the cultural revolution by gangs of Red Guards. In recent years, an attempt was made to bring back their original grandeur. The suspension bridge in the background, completed in 2001, is one of thirteen new bridges spanning the Yangtze.



**FINAL REPORT: CULTURAL AFFAIRS GRANT**

***Yangtze Remembered, The River Beneath the Lake***  
*Photographs by Linda Butler*

April 27 - June 30, 2007

**Yangtze Remembered, The River Beneath the Lake** was presented as a featured exhibition of the UMMA's Spring 2007 schedule. The exhibition consisted of 56 photographs of cultural, historical and educational significance that documented the changes made by the creation of the Three Gorges Dam to the Yangtze river, surrounding area, communities and people. *Yangtze Remembered* was extremely well received by the public and the subject of tours from schools, educators, senior groups and social agencies throughout the region. During the length of the exhibition over 2000 visitors attended the museum.

The exhibition was covered by local media through various articles and broadcasts relating to its content, the artist, and education conference. Publicity included: 7500 color announcements distributed to K - 12 schools, colleges, museums, and galleries throughout New England and surrounding communities as well as an additional 1600 which were distributed to the UM campus community.

Linda Butler conducted a well-attended gallery talk at the exhibition opening on April 26, 2007. She also was a presenter at the two-day educator conference titled, *Yangtze Remembered: Using Photographs to Teach Cultural Change*. The conference, held April 26 & 27, was developed by UMMA in partnership with Primary Source, the Bangor Public Library, and the Five College Center for East Asian Studies. Panelists and educators explored the many ways in which teachers of all grade levels and disciplines can use visual art to enrich curriculum.

Hours for the exhibition were Monday - Saturday, 9 - 5 pm.

Please find the following enclosed:

Final budget for the project  
Exhibition announcement  
BDN article, May 1, 2007

[www.umma.umaine.edu](http://www.umma.umaine.edu)

## Yangtze River art exhibit serves as launch pad for Asian studies

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 - Bangor Daily News



William Cohen School art teacher Katrina LaJoie (L) explains to Eric Sherman, social studies teacher at Piscataquis Community High School how the use of Chinese photos can be incorporated into his curriculum. (Bangor Daily News/Kevin Bennett)

The River Beneath the Lake," which captures scenes of everyday life along the river before and after the construction of the Three Gorges Dam.

Butler is an Ohio-based artist who has spent time in Maine photographing the Shaker village in New Gloucester. On Friday, she gave an in-depth gallery talk about the Yangtze body of work and the questions it raises about governmental power, the environment and human rights.

"I went to China in the fall of 2000 ... and I was very intrigued by what I saw going on along the shores of the river. The river was truly a highway, and it had been for thousands of years — it was the main road," she told the group. "Over the course of three years of watching, the society had changed to a road economy."

Those changes were driven by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest power project, according to the International Rivers Network. The transformation of valley into reservoir has caused a mass migration to newly built cities on higher ground. After Butler's talk, teachers used those changes as the basis for one of several curriculum-building exercises.

Each chose a card at random and walked throughout the galleries, searching for one work that best embodied the category — economics, ecology, artistic vision, geography and culture — on the card. They studied the images intently, taking notes before breaking off into small groups to discuss how they would use the photographs as a launch pad for discussion.

Mary Rees-Nutter, who teaches seventh- and eighth-grade social studies at Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School, drew a "culture" card, and chose an image of simply packaged noodles with a rickshaw in the background as a way to engage her students.

"How do these things influence how they really live?" she told her group. "They might see the technology of transportation, they might see the basket, they might see people walking in the background, or see the condition of the road."

Kal Elmore, a Bangor High School art teacher, responded to the way the noodles in the photograph were packaged.

"It's a great photo," Elmore remarked. "It tells a big story."

The Yangtze River flows from the heart of China like an artery, pumping lifeblood in the form of fertile land, trade routes and commercial opportunity to the millions who inhabit its shores.

In the coming months, that river — and the lessons it can teach about culture, economics, geography, ecology and history — will flow through classrooms in eastern Maine thanks to the Yangtze Remembered conference at the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor, which 20 area educators attended on Thursday and Friday.

The conference, presented in partnership with Primary Source, the Bangor Public Library and the Five College Center for East Asian Studies, centered on Linda Butler's photography exhibit "Yangtze Remembered:

"I think my kids would react to the fact that they aren't totally packaged," Carolyn Locke, an English and social studies teacher at Mount View High School, said. "When they see noodles, they might think lo mein, but with food, they'd eventually make the whole agricultural connection."

Those cross-curricular connections are exactly what UMMA's education coordinator Gina Platt had in mind when she started planning the conference more than a year ago. Though the museum's educational outreach has historically centered on art for art's sake, Platt has plans to expand the reach of existing programs.

"In a lot of ways, this ties into the Museums by Mail program [which sends artwork and complementary lesson plans to schools throughout the state]," Platt said. "We're going to build upon it and really change a few things, develop more thorough lesson plans that would appeal not just to art teachers."

When the museum booked the exhibit more than a year ago, Platt sought out Ryan Bradeen of Primary Source, which works to help teachers create curriculum with an international focus through seminars, summer courses and study tours. A growing number of teachers in the area have taken part in Asian-focused programs through Primary Source and its affiliates.

"There are similar organizations around the country and we work together," Bradeen said Friday. "There is a movement to encourage stronger international, global education in American schools. We recognize that Americans really need to know, with ever more pressing urgency, how to engage with countries outside the United States."

Through that partnership, Platt was able to connect with a panel of Maine-based experts in Asian culture. Thursday's program featured a talk by Bob Sargent of Sedgwick, a former diplomat who organized an April exhibit of his father's historical photographs of interior China at the Bangor Public Library. Margaret Maurer-Fazio, an associate dean and economics professor at Bates, also spoke Thursday. She has a research background in Chinese labor market developments and incorporates Asian economic studies into her curriculum. Friday afternoon, a lecture by Bowdoin professor Nancy Riley, a sociologist who has researched family, gender and population in China, rounded out the mix.

In addition, the conference featured a panel of local educators who traveled to China — including a tour of the Yangtze — last summer during a trip organized by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia. William Murphy, who teaches advanced placement global studies and advanced placement American experience at Belfast High School, was in that group.

"When I came back from China, I was so invigorated intellectually by the experience ... I wanted to relate everything to China — how can I relate "Beowulf" to China? Or the Puritans?" he asked, jokingly, over lunch on Friday. "I had to get a grip on myself, because it was all I wanted to talk about. I have continued my study of China and incorporated it [where it's appropriate], but for me, right now, it's a personal intellectual passion."

During a quiet moment on Friday, Butler sat on Hannibal Hamlin's sofa under the rotunda of the Bangor Public Library and reflected on her own intellectual passion for the Yangtze River. When she thinks about the future, her outlook is mixed: During her six trips to the region, the resilience and thirst for knowledge of the people she met inspired hope. But widespread corruption, industrial pollution and a lack of freedom of the press temper her optimism.

Much of what drew her to the Three Gorges will be covered by water when the reservoir reaches its full depth in 2008. Some of what she loved will live on in her work. The rest is a bit less tangible.

"I think the photos captured the river," she said, pensively. "The movement is something I have to remember — the crowd of people around it. The conversations with people, the actual humans I met, that, one has to carry in one's soul, one's memory."

#### Resources:

"Yangtze Remembered: The River Beneath the Lake," photographs by Linda Butler, through June 30,

University of Maine Museum of Art, 40 Harlow St., Bangor, [www.umma.umaine.edu](http://www.umma.umaine.edu).

Primary Source, Maine program office: 47 Main St., Suite 210, Bangor, 942-7146,  
[maine@primarysource.org](mailto:maine@primarysource.org).

Five College Center for East Asian Studies: Smith College, Northampton, Mass., (413) 585-3751,  
[www.smith.edu/fceas/](http://www.smith.edu/fceas/).

National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, (through Five College Center for East Asian Studies),  
[www.NCTAsia.org](http://www.NCTAsia.org)

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<http://www.bangordailynews.com>