



February 3, 2006

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Young Friends host party for filmmaker walking from Madrid to Kyiv on February 23 at 7pm

Chicago, Ill. -- The Young Friends of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art are hosting a launch party for filmmaker Lee Kazimir before he leaves to start his documentary "More Shoes" on a 2,500 mile walk from Madrid to Kyiv. The party takes place in the main gallery of UIMA on February 23, 2006, from 7-9pm. Kazimir will be speaking at 8:30pm about his plans, and the trailer for his documentary will be screened.

Kazimir has taken up a challenge posed by writer and director Werner Herzog, who stated that a person could learn more about creativity and filmmaking by walking a great distance alone than by sitting through five years of film school. Kazimir will shoot his documentary as he travels through Paris, Berlin, Warsaw, and the villages and towns between them, before ending his journey in Kyiv. He hopes to create more than the typical travel film: "I want to seek out the kinds of true and tiny images that comprise our experience as travelers, which are exactly the opposite of what goes into drug-store travel guides and holiday brochures."

A unique program called "Fellow Travelers" is covering travel costs. Kazimir is asking for 1,000 donations of \$20. Each donor will then be listed in the film credits and will also receive a handwritten postcard from Kazimir during his walk. Partygoers will be able to contribute during the launch.

The Young Friends are excited to host this event and partake in the unique relationship between a gallery and an artist during the creative process. Rather than looking at the documentary as an end product, the group sees the work in progress as an end in and of itself.

The Young Friends of the Institute is a committee of UIMA that sponsors events aimed to attract a younger and more ethnically diverse public to the Institute. The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art was created to preserve and promote the knowledge and appreciation of contemporary Ukrainian art and culture. It serves as an artistic anchor in Chicago's West Town Community, providing world-class art exhibitions, concerts, literary readings, and educational exchanges.

Located at 2320 W. Chicago Ave., UIMA is open Wednesday 12-4, Thursday and Friday 12-7, Saturday and Sunday 11-5. For more information, please call 773-227-5522 or visit <http://www.uima-art.org>.

For more information on "More Shoes" and the Madrid to Kyiv project, call Lee Kazimir at 708-280-9781 or visit <http://www.madridtokiev.com/>.

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