For the duration of the Queens Museum’s expansion, Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao has been in residence capturing the metamorphosis of the New York City Building. Ten 30 x 72” pigment ink prints have been selected for *New York City Building Time Lapse, 2009–2013: Photographs by Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao* from a series of more than 50 large-format color photographs, which chronicle the building’s recent transformation. These evocative images reflect the skeletal framework of the original Beaux-Arts architecture in contrast with bird’s eye views of soaring 45’ high ceilings revealing the modernist elements of the Grimshaw Architects redesign.

Liao’s technique is characterized by the use of a large format 8 x 10” view camera and by shooting multiple long exposures of the same site over the course of several hours or even days. The negatives are then scanned and processed in Photoshop, meticulously merged and layered into one unique image with adjustments in color, contrast, and brightness. Recently Liao has been working digitally, enabling him to create these composites of multiple images with sweeping panoramic views. His monumental pigment ink prints capture the minute details of his subject, providing a sense of light and texture that otherwise could never occur naturally in a single exposure. Liao’s process transcends the bounds of documentary photography through a compelling melding of time and image, forming rich compositions that transform the viewer’s perception of familiar locations through the use of old and new technologies that reference both the future and the past.

In addition to Liao’s commissioned work, architectural renderings and archival photographs will convey the rich history of the building from its role as the New York City Pavilion in the 1939/40 and 1964/65 World’s Fairs, home of the United Nations General Assembly (1946–1950), and site of both the Queens Museum (1972–today) and the World’s Fair Skating Rink (1941–1945; 1952–1962; 1966–2008). These materials are from the Archives, New York City Department of Parks; The Museum of the City of New York; United Nations Photo Library, Department of Public Information and the New York City Department of Protection, Records and Archives Management, as well as the Museum’s own collection.

JEFF CHIEN-HSING LIAO, who was born in 1977 in Taiwan, emigrated to the U.S. in 1999 at the age of 18, where he took residence in Queens in close proximity to the 7 line, dubbed by the Department of City Planning the “International Express.” He earned an MFA from the School of Visual Arts (SVA) and a BFA from the Pratt Institute. Liao’s renowned Habitat 7 Series, for which he received critical acclaim, stemmed from his master’s thesis at SVA. Taken over the course of two years, Liao depicted the ethnic diversity of the communities along the 7 train on its seven mile run from Manhattan to Flushing. As a winner of The New York Times Magazine Capture the Times photography contest in 2005, the series cemented his status as a prominent photographer. Liao’s work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions, and can be found in the permanent collections of several institutions such as the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; Queens Museum and the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York; J. Paul Getty Museum; George Eastman House-International Museum of Photography and Film; the Norton Museum of Art; and Deutsche Bank. His first monograph, *Habitat 7*, was published by Nazraeli Press in 2008 and his second monograph, *Coney Island*, was published in 2013. Currently, Liao is working with Aperture on his next major book, *Five Boroughs*. 

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**New York City Building Time Lapse, 2009–2013**

*Photographs by Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao*

Nov 9 2013 – Jan 19 2014


This exhibition has been organized by Louise Weinberg, Registrar, Archives Manager and Curator.

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