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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Alliance Program

The Italian Academy

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights

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Ville de Boulogne-Billancourt

## The Silent Strength of **LIU XIA**

An exhibition of photographs

**Extended**

**February 9 – April 20, 2012**

Gallery Hours: weekdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

The Italian Academy

1161 Amsterdam Avenue

(Just south of 118th Street)

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Because of strong interest and unexpectedly high visitor traffic, “The Silent Strength of Liu Xia has been extended until April 20, 2012. Co-sponsored by Columbia University’s Alliance Program and the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies, in cooperation with the town of Boulogne-Billancourt in France, the exhibition includes twenty-six photographs by Beijing artist Liu Xia. Curated by author and professor, Guy Sorman, the exhibition features photographs of life-like dolls in a series of sets devised by the artist. The dolls, called “ugly babies” by Liu, are positioned between large stacks of books, wrapped in plastic, and lying on planks against a bright sky, among other tableaux. The exhibition’s first public showing was in Boulogne-Billancourt, France in autumn 2011. Following its engagement at Columbia, the work will travel to Madrid, Hong Kong, and Cologne.

Born in 1959 in Beijing, Liu Xia is a poet, painter and photographer, and the wife of 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Liu Xiaobo. She has been a noteworthy figure on the contemporary Chinese art scene for more than three decades. Her work in various media focuses on freedom of expression rooted in traditional values and styles. Liu is currently under house arrest in China.

## PRESS RELEASE

**April 12, 2012**

*The Silent Strength of Liu Xia* opened on Thursday, February 9 with a reception which included commentary by the curator and by Columbia professor Andrew Nathan. The exhibition continues through Friday, April 20, 2012. Gallery hours are weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

### Sponsors:

Columbia University, The Alliance Program ([www.columbia.edu/cu/alliance/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/alliance/)), The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies ([www.italianacademy.columbia.edu](http://www.italianacademy.columbia.edu)), The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (<http://hrcolumbia.org/>)

Ville de Boulogne-Billancourt, France

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