UC DAVIS ART STUDIO LECTURE SERIES
2011 // 2012

SHIMON ATTIE
MAY 17 // 4:30PM // TCS BUILDING

Born in Los Angeles in 1957, Shimon Attie lived in Europe for seven years before moving to New York in the fall of 1997. He has exhibited widely in both the United States and Europe, including shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Berlinische Galerie, Berlin; and the Jewish Museum, New York.

Concerned with questions of memory, place, and identity, Shimon Attie gives visual form to both personal and collective memories by introducing histories of marginalized and forgotten communities into the physical landscape of the present. The Writing on the Wall project (1991-1993) took place in Berlin’s former Jewish quarter, the Scheunenviertel neighborhood. There Attie projected slides made from pre-Holocaust photographs of the neighborhood’s Jewish residents and shops in the same (or sometimes nearby) locations where the original images were taken. He then photographed the resulting scene.
A woman from the past looks out the window of a building now scrawled with graffiti. A pigeon shop with cages stacked on the sidewalk is restored to an otherwise empty street. The life and industry suggested in the projections of the past strike an unexpected counterpoint to the crumbling facades and apparently abandoned places of the present.