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**Proof on Main Debuts Haunting Natural Imagery During
Earth Month**

Nature Photography by Bae Bien-U of South Korea Now On View

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (April 10, 2008) - - - Louisville's most aesthetically intriguing restaurant Proof on Main announces the installation of an exhibition of photographs by Bae Bien-U on loan from the artist and Gana Art, NY. One of the most internationally recognized South Korean artists, Bae Bien-U is known for his ethereal treatment of natural subjects, most notably the pine groves of Gyeongju. He is a professor of photography at the Seoul Institute of the Arts and his work has been exhibited at the Musée du Louvre, Paris and at the Royal Academy in London. The exhibition at Proof on Main includes three large C-prints mounted on plexiglass and three gelatin silver prints mounted on plexiglass. The exhibition includes selections from both his *Pine Tree* and *Sea* series. The work will be in view through April 2009, and the announcement of the exhibition coincides with Earth Month and Arbor Day on April 25.

Since his initial forays into photography in the 1970s, Bae Bien-U has placed his artistic focus on landscapes. In 1985, he began to concentrate on pine forests, resulting in the series *Pine Tree*. The largest tree in Korea, the pine is prolific throughout the country, but Bae Bien-U was inspired to focus on the trees in the hills around the old city of Gyeongju. These groves of trees are considered sacred, as they were planted to honor the more than 20 kings that once lived in the province. Korean shamanic folklore reveres pine trees, which are used ritualistically during birth and after death, and the evergreen quality is a natural symbol of longevity. Today the pine groves of Gyeongju are a national treasure and, through Bae Bien-U's lens, a subject that invites contemplation of the human relationship with nature. Photographed at different times of day, often in mist, and using very long exposures, the images are infused with poetic density and suggest a vertical connection between heaven and earth.

Bae Bien-U does not aim to capture reality in his photographs, but rather the essence or soul of the objects that he observes. He invites us into contemplation, even meditation, so that we feel transported in their presence. His work reveals connections with the Oriental pictorial tradition while also evoking the spirit of European Romanticism.

Fantasies, fairy tales, and futuristic visions come to life in the contemporary artwork featured in Proof on Main. The art is selected from the Louisville collection of Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, an extensive and international

collection of contemporary art that includes painting, sculpture, video, and installation art. Part of the current exhibition includes photographic works on loan from the artist and their galleries. The artists presented at Proof on Main have exhibited their work in galleries and museums across the United States, Europe, and Asia.

For more information or to make reservations for dinner, call Proof on Main at (502) 217-6360. Proof on Main is located at 702 West Main Street. For more information visit www.proofonmain.com.

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday

Dinner: 5:30 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday
5:30 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Bar Menu: 2 p.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday
2 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday
5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday
5 p.m. to midnight Sunday

Bar: 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Thursday
11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday
5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday
5 p.m. to midnight Sunday

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