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**Red Wing Framing Gallery announces exclusive exhibit of
Max Becherer's dramatic images of life in Iraq**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, August 31st, 2005

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(Red Wing, MN)... Red Wing Framing Gallery is pleased to announce an exclusive exhibit of Max Becherer's dramatic and provocative photographs of life in post-Saddam Iraq.

"Through the Lens: Life in Iraq. A Photo-journal by Max Becherer" opens at Red Wing Framing Gallery on October 14th, 2005 and will be on display until November 18th, 2005. The exhibit is a series of visual storylines of Iraqi daily struggles and personal victories since Saddam Hussein was overthrown. A total of 54 images with textual content will be presented in a large-format display.

Max Becherer is an award-winning photojournalist who has been embedded in Iraq three times. His photography has appeared in The New York Times, Time Magazine and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Becherer commented on this series of images, "I used black and white film for many of the images because the look and feel is different. Iraq is all sandstone and in the summer everything is washed out, so color doesn't contribute to the story. Baghdad was a city being reduced to the bare bones of emotions and that's what black and white film does best. I wanted to gather the fabric of daily life and color and light were only distractions. I am delighted to work with Valerie and Red Wing Framing Gallery to present a side of the Iraq conflict that is usually overlooked."

Edward Wong from The New York Times worked with Becherer during the recent elections in Najaf. Says Wong, "During that time, Max tenaciously covered all aspects of the elections, from the day of the vote to interviews with the ayatollahs to the scene at the vast Najaf cemetery when families brought down the bodies of people who had been killed in attacks on election day. Max truly showed his range in shooting the cemetery story. He managed to capture the grief of the mourners, never an easy thing to do. He went to the cemetery for two days in a row and carefully followed the rituals of one family on the second day, from the washing of the body to the burial itself. His energy that day was unflagging, and his eye as keen and sympathetic as that of anyone who has ever witnessed such sorrow."

Valerie Becker of Red Wing Framing Gallery said, "Max's images are very emotional. They represent both hope and anguish at the human level. It reminded me how alike people really are; to provide for our children, to mourn our lost loved ones and to celebrate expression through art. I am proud to present Max's images and am hopeful that this will be a useful educational venue."

Becherer will be available at Red Wing Framing Gallery to discuss his images during a reception on October 14th and 15th from 7-9 pm.

Red Wing Framing Gallery (www.redwingframing.com), located in the historic Boxrud Building on Main Street in Downtown Red Wing, specializes in original art, custom framing, archival printing and studio photography.

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Select images from "*Through the lens: Life in Iraq*"



From the Al-Raheed Theater series



From the Yarmouk Hospital series

All images copyright Max Becherer

Select images from "Through the lens: Life in Iraq"



From the Election in Najaf series



From the Election Day Martyr series

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Select images from "*Through the lens: Life in Iraq*"



From the Graduation Day series



From the Yarmouk Hospital series

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