

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 29, 2008

**VII Photo Agency announces changes:
New Managing Director, New Board,**

The photographers of **VII** announced management changes following their AGM in New York last week. “The agency is experiencing terrific growth and we have used this natural break point to make a number of changes, bringing new expertise and energy to the agency,” said GARY KNIGHT, in handing over the Chair to the new Board of Directors. “We are delighted to welcome **STEPHEN MAYES** who takes over from FRANK EVERS as Managing Director, working with a new Board comprising photographers MARCUS BLEASDALE, RON HAVIV and JAMES NACHTWEY, with two fantastic external Directors NEAL JACKSON and RICHARD SCHOENBERG. We want to thank Frank for his contribution and service to **VII** over the years, and we wish him well on his new endeavors.”

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Frank Evers, the departing Managing Director, announced his intention to leave in mid-2007. During his tenure, the agency has significantly expanded its sales operation opening offices in New York and Los Angeles, and created a number of new initiatives, including the **VII** Network (now distributing the work of seven rising stars), **VII** Masterclass, **VII** Seminar, **VII** DUMBO events space, an online bookstore & **VII** Visionaires "It has been a pleasure working with the VII photographers. Together we have taken the agency to a whole new level, with significant rewards for the agency and I hope for the photographic community as a whole," said Evers after the AGM. He will continue to direct the New York Photo Festival, which he inaugurated in 2008 with Daniel Power of powerHouse Books, and will be launching a series of new media businesses, to be announced over the next 6 months.

Stephen Mayes steps into the Managing Director's role with twenty-five years experience in diverse areas of photography, art and journalism. While Director of *Network Photographers*, a leading independent reportage agency, Mayes chaired the *World Press Photo* competition and curated several photographic exhibitions including *Positive Lives*, which continues to tour in four continents. He went on to develop creative strategies for major commercial agencies, working as SVP of Content for *Getty Images* and CEO of *Photonica* in the USA. As Creative Director of *eyestorm.com* Mayes worked with many contemporary artists including Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and Richard Misrach, and as Director of the Image Archive at *Art + Commerce* he represented Steven Meisel, Ellen von Unwerth, Taryn Simon and others. He maintains an annual assignment as Secretary to the *World Press Photo* competition. He has written and broadcast extensively on the ethics and realities of photographic practice. Mayes comments, "This is a fantastic opportunity to work with the world's best photojournalists at a time of exhilarating change when the need to represent the world with impact and integrity has never been greater."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Photographers MARCUS BLEASDALE, RON HAVIV and JAMES NACHTWEY step up as Directors, replacing Gary Knight and Christopher Morris who have served on the Board since 2006. They are joined by two external Directors NEAL JACKSON and RICHARD SCHOENBERG.

Neal Jackson (Chair) is the principal and founder of Worldinsight Media, a consulting firm serving media clients.

From 1996 through 2007 Jackson was the Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel, corporate Secretary and Chief Ethics Officer of *National Public Radio*. At *NPR* he was responsible for the legal department and managing a full range of legal issues relating to *NPR*'s activities, ranging from media law through satellite distribution operations. He also advised *NPR*'s board of directors on its governance activities.

Before coming to *NPR*, Jackson was in private law practice in Washington for 26 years, including a decade as a managing partner. His client work focused on corporate and technology transactions, intellectual property issues, and related litigation. An exhibited photographer and long-time observer of the world of photojournalism, Jackson is a member of the Lightstalkers virtual photographic community.

Richard Schoenberg is a serial entrepreneur having set up his first company *Steady-Systems, Inc.* in 1985 servicing the film and TV industries. The business has twice achieved *Inc Magazine*'s Fastest Growing Companies and in 1993 Richard was selected by *Ernst & Young* as a finalist for its "Entrepreneur of the Year Award". In 1998, *Steady-Systems* was successfully sold to *Daisytek, Inc.*, a publicly traded company based in Dallas, Texas and in 1999, Schoenberg started a new business, *eClips, Inc.* that provided post-production services and equipment to the film and video industry. In 2003, the company was sold to *TV Magic, Inc.* in San Diego, Ca. Schoenberg currently works as CEO of *MelroseMAC*, an Apple Computer VAR/Specialist in the Los Angeles area.

In addition to his business career, Schoenberg is a founding member of the *Los Angeles League of Photographers* and was an exhibitor in the first show by the organization in June 2004. He has published three books of his own photography.

ABOUT VII PHOTO

VII derives its name from the number of founding photojournalists who, in September 2001, formed this collectively owned agency. Designed from the outset to be an efficient, technologically enabled distribution hub for some of the world's finest photojournalism, **VII** has been responsible for creating and relaying to the world many of the images that define the turbulent opening years of the 21st century.

Current Members are :

Marcus Bleasdale, the estate of Alexandra Boulat, Lauren Greenfeld, Ron Haviv, Gary Knight, Antonin Kratochvil, Joachim Ladefoged, Christopher Morris, James Nachtwey, Franco Pagetti, John Stanmeyer.

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