

# *A Visual Diary of Disaster & Loss in the Bayous*

## Photographer Monique Verdin



**Tuesday, November 15, 2005**  
**HMNSS 1500**  
**5:00 p.m.**

“Southern Louisiana is our Chiapas: a tragic and beautiful land that has become an epicenter of indigenous resistance to ecocide and ethnic cleansing. The native Americans of the Gulf parishes are an almost invisible people, yet their gritty endurance in remote villages and lost bayous is an epic story. Now, in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a majority of them are without homes or livelihoods, and they face perhaps the greatest challenge to their cultural survival since the French conquest. Monique Verdin is a daughter of the Pointe-au-Chien tribe. She is also an extraordinary photographer who has chronicled her people’s difficult struggle in a rapidly disappearing landscape. She documents how corporate greed has poisoned the bayous and accelerated the erosion of this country’s most magnificent wetlands. She also depicts the pride and quiet heroism of people like her incredible 90-year-old grandmother Armantine Marie Verdin who escaped Katrina’s wrath in a traditional piroque (flat-bottom canoe). With her companion, the Cajun actor-activist Mark Krasnoff from Ville Platte, she has also been keeping a photo and video diary of how southern Louisianans - Black, Creole, Cajun and Indian - have responded to the ultimate disaster.”

This event is being sponsored by: The Center for Ideas & Society, Susan Straight, and CHASS Connect.

*This event is free and open to the public. For further information regarding this, or any event sponsored by the Center for Ideas and Society, please contact us at 951.UCR.IDEA or visit our website at [ideasandsociety.ucr.edu](http://ideasandsociety.ucr.edu)*