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***History in a Shoebox:
Photographs from the Spanish Civil War, Lleida 1936-1939***
**Sculpture Court Gallery, Jewett Art Center
at Wellesley College**

September 27 – October 29, 2006

Wellesley, Mass. — For the first time, photographic negatives recovered from the town of Lleida during the Spanish Civil War have been developed and the never-before-seen photographs will be on exhibition at the Sculpture Court Gallery at Wellesley College's Jewett Art Center September 27 through October 29. *History in a Shoebox: Photographs from the Spanish Civil War, Lleida 1936-1939* is presented by Wellesley's Art and Spanish Departments with the Davis Museum and Cultural Center. The opening reception is September 27 at 5pm. A lecture, in tandem with the exhibition, is October 13 at 4:30pm in the Collins Cinema. The exhibition and related events are free and open to the public.

The exhibit features 20 photographs of unique images that were taken by Ramon Rius, a baker from Lleida, kept in a box, and recently passed on to his granddaughter. "For a citizen to have the pictures or even to be seen in them, after the Fascists won the war, could have meant an instantaneous death sentence," notes curator Carlos Ramos, "especially since they portray images of the loyalists to the Republic."

Ramon Rius documented church burnings, paramilitary forces, demonstrations in support of the Republic, and finally the fascists entering the town. (When German planes bombed the city, he took refuge in the countryside.) When democracy returned to Spain, after Franco's death in 1975, the unspoken attitude towards the memory of the war was to forget and to move on. It has

been in later years, with democracy fully asserted in Spain and the 70th anniversary being celebrated this year, that the focus and the reevaluation of the war intensified.

In addition to the exhibition, guest lecturer Jordana Mendelson, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will speak on *Wartime Vernaculars: Photographs and Press during the Spanish Civil War* on October 13 at 4:30pm in the Collins Cinema. Based on archival research throughout Spain's libraries, Mendelson presents an in-depth look at the kinds of images, ideas, and publications that proliferated on the front and in the rear guard during the Civil War, with particular attention to the ways in which art and culture were staged as necessary, every day activities.

History in a Shoebox: Photographs from the Spanish Civil War, Lleida 1936-1939 is organized by Carlos Ramos, associate professor, Spanish Department and Judith Black, associate professor, Art Department; with Elisabeth Ford, assistant professor, English. *History in a Shoebox* is co-sponsored by Wellesley College's Art and Spanish Departments and the Newhouse Center for the Humanities. Funding is made possible through the generosity of The Kathryn Wasserman Davis '28 Fund for World Cultures and Leadership.

DAVIS MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

The museum's collection spans the history of art from ancient Greece to the present, with over 12,000 objects of diverse cultures and media.

The Davis Museum and Cultural Center will be closed through Spring 2007 for repairs to the roof. While there will be little change to the museum's historic Rafael Moneo design, the repairs will provide the museum with more consistent humidification and temperature controls required to protect works of art in our care.

For more information visit www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu

SCULPTURE COURT GALLERY

The gallery is devoted to the exhibition of student work and by professional artists when the work relates to the educational goals of the Art Department. Students interested in a career in the studio arts and gallery management gain invaluable hands-on experience *History in a Shoebox: Photographs from the Spanish Civil War, Lleida 1936-1939*.

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:15am to 11pm; Friday 8:15am to 7pm; Saturday 12noon – 5pm; Sunday 12noon – 11pm The Jewett Art Center is located on the Wellesley College campus at 106 Central Street in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Admission and parking are free.

MEDIA NOTE: For more information, digital images, or to set up an interview with Carlos Ramos, please contact: Barbara Levitov at 781-283-2034 or blevitov@wellesley.edu

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