The FLAG Art Foundation Presents New Exhibition: “Vague Terrain: Analogues of Place in Contemporary Photography”

Curated by Stamatina Gregory

May 8 2009 - September 1, 2009

While photography's unique capacity for fiction and distortion is something we now readily accept—even embrace—the persistent use of the medium to evoke fictive spaces has taken on its own critical currency. Since Gustave Le Gray crafted Brick au clair de lune (an 1856 photograph that used montage and exposure techniques to simulate a seascape) artists have used photography to generate illusory spaces, altered landscapes, and non-sites. Over a century later, the postmodern critique of representation in the 1970s sought to completely demolish photography's relationship to reality. In the process, a visual vocabulary of self-reflexive strategies was amassed that was honed and expanded by contemporary artists. Through pastiche, the use of staged or crafted tableaux, the reproduction of built models, or the documentation of simulated sites, the works in this exhibition create subverted analogues of particular places in history, in time, or in collective memory: armed conflicts, space travel, romantic landscapes, and monumental architecture.

Two works anchor the exhibition: Thomas Demand’s Clearing, 2003 (a photograph of a sculptural construction and an implicit critique of a Romantic past) and Andreas Gursky’s 99 Cent (diptych), 2001 (a hyperreal montage evoking the poverty and excess of the future of capitalism). Respectively, this collection of works explores two corresponding trajectories: the formal and conceptual investigation of landscape as a mediated construction, and the simulation of specific spaces of history and spectacle.

INCLUDING WORKS FROM THE FOLLOWING ARTISTS:

Oliver Boberg
James Casebere
Gregory Crewdson
Thomas Demand
Joan Fontcuberta
Barry Frydlender
Noriko Furunishi
Andreas Gursky
Beate Gütschow
An-My Le
David Levinthal
Aleksandra Mir
Cindy Sherman
Jeff Wall
Jason Wee
James Welling
About The FLAG Art Foundation
The FLAG Art Foundation is an exhibition space for contemporary art. The program includes 3 to 5 professionally-curated shows each year by established and emerging international artists. We are on the 9th and 10th floors of the Chelsea Arts Tower, located in the heart of New York’s art district on 25th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues.

FLAG provides a unique educational environment in which visitors can view, contemplate, and engage in active dialogue with the artworks. Curators select and borrow from a variety of sources to include a wide range of work in each exhibition. FLAG is also a resource that facilitates loans of contemporary artworks to museums around the world. An extensive database of available works is maintained and made available to curators via info@flagartfoundation.org.

Contact:
The FLAG Art Foundation
545 West 25th Street
New York, NY 10001
info@flagartfoundation.org
www.flagartfoundation.org