

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

Ben Brown Fine Arts announces two consecutive exhibitions by the German photographer Candida Höfer. The first exhibition, *'Candida Höfer in Italy, Part I: Florence'* will open in London at the gallery space at 12 Brook's Mews (London W1K 4DG) on October 7th 2009 (Preview October 6th: 6.00-8.00 pm), and after closing on November 18th 2009 will transfer to Palazzo Medici-Riccardi in Florence (December 10th 2009 - January 24th 2010).

On November 23rd 2009, the gallery will open its second exhibition *'Candida Höfer in Italy, Part II: Naples'*, which will have completed its display at Museo Capodimonte in Naples (October 2nd – November 14th 2009).

By intertwining and circulating these two exhibitions through the central axis of the gallery space, the artist is opening up a dialogue not only between the two cities, historically the pulsating hearts of Italy's cultural prestige, but also draws interesting and thought-provoking parallels between the various platforms upon which her work is presented. Therefore the space represented in the photographs, the space of the historically magnificent and the culturally important speaks to the viewing spaces, museum and gallery alike.

In her work, the artist explores powerful and deserted interiors, devoid of human presence and gloriously still. Her images therefore become a sort of encyclopaedia of the spaces within which mankind has achieved greatness, libraries, cathedrals, museums, yet humans are nowhere to be seen, their transience obvious and the immanence of their monuments striking. Höfer manages to produce these magnificent portraits of interiors without digitally enhancing or altering the images. Her technique of working solely with the existing light source allows her to capture the most intricate details in every photograph. The beauty of the spaces is captured for posterity.

Candida Höfer - Biography

Candida Höfer lives and works in Cologne. Having completed her training at the Schmölz-Huth Studio, she became a pupil of Bernd and Hilla Becher in 1976, and one can immediately identify in her aesthetics the clear influence of a school of thought and photography privileging the physical spaces and intent on capturing the subtle variations which occur within it. Alongside the other great photographers of the Contemporary era Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth, Axel Hütte and Thomas Ruff, Candida Höfer belongs to the School of Düsseldorf, a movement known for its neutral and methodical analysis of the spaces which we, as contemporary human beings, inhabit.

Her work has been shown and recognised internationally, including at the Kunsthalle in Basel and Berne, the Louvre, the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin. Candida Höfer has also represented Germany at the Venice Biennale in 2003 and participated in documenta 11 (2002). Many of Höfer's works are represented in major museum and private collections.

'Candida Höfer in Italy'
'Part I: Florence'
7th October – 18th November 2009
Preview 6th October 6 – 8pm

'Part II: Naples'
23rd November – 21st January 2010

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Candida Höfer

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112 x 78 3/4 in. (284.5 x 200 cm)

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