

# BEN BROWN

- *Press Release for immediate release* -

## **Candida Höfer: Palaces, Theatres, Churches and A Casino**

5<sup>th</sup> July – 28 September 2007  
Private View 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007 6-8pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts is proud to present an exhibition of photographs by Candida Höfer. Taken in both public and private places, she focuses on the interiors of spaces, centers of power, commerce and the institution. The photographs depict a world of knowledge and exchange of information. This exhibition presents the cultural institutions of Portugal and the Louvre museum. Although she has photographed cultural institutions internationally, Höfer does not set out to make art about colonialism, globalization or social disparities, "To highlight social function is not my concern". She has created a collection of work where her intervention highlights the unspoken glory of her subjects. Höfer exposes the sublimity of the relationship between humanity, space and architecture and the endless possibilities of photography.

Höfer's upbringing introduced her to the concept of a 'set'; spaces that were built purposefully as back drops for human action. Growing up in post war Germany, which must in itself have seemed like a landscape in renovation, she observed that specific choices were made about history and culture. A commentary of this was being built into new architectural sculptures and public spaces, for someone of Höfer's generation they could appear as 'sets' for a new attempt of social life.

The photographs hint at a framework that has been constructed from a subtle language developed from interpretations of European architecture. They do not focus on the specific identity of nations; the photographs of Portugal are taken *in* Portugal as opposed to being *of* Portugal, transcending concepts of place and time.

In the Louvre series the gaze of the public is directed to a new perspective, we are introduced to what lies beyond the paintings it houses, or that one would visit the Louvre to look at paintings at all. In both series we are reminded of the relationship, through absence of human presence, of the architecture and for whom it was intended and the magnificence of both in their definition through relation of one to the other.

While studying with the Bechers in Düsseldorf, Höfer decided to remove human presence in her photographs, emphasizing just us and our 'gaze'. Höfer aims the camera in to a deep space, offering a vanishing point in the room. She creates a balanced composition, resulting in a photographically solid 3 dimensional container. Here she conducts light and colour uniquely, producing her signature technique transporting the viewer to experience what Höfer saw. We can then imagine ourselves in these vast impressive spaces.

Her work has been shown at museums such as the Kunsthalle at Basel and Berne, the Louvre as well as Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. She has also represented Germany at the Venice Biennale. Ben Brown Fine Arts are honored to be showing her work in Cork Street for the second time, providing the unique opportunity for the viewer to experience Höfer's Gaze.

Catalogue available.

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