

# BEN BROWN FINE ARTS



## CANDIDA HÖFER VILLA BORGHESE

25 JUNE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRIVATE VIEW: 24 JUNE, 6-8PM

Ben Brown Fine Arts is proud to present Candida Höfer's *Villa Borghese* series on 25 June. Höfer's *Libraries* was the inaugural exhibition at Ben Brown Fine Arts' Cork Street space in 2004. Now celebrating its 10th year, her return for *Villa Borghese* holds special significance for the gallery.

Commissioned by the Galleria Borghese in 2012 for their *Committenze Contemporanee* project, Höfer's series captures the institution's architectural splendour and history. The statues raised on blue plinths in each image form part of the Galleria's rich narrative. First owned by the Galleria, sold to French collectors, and then loaned back to the museum by the Louvre, they are here poignantly depicted in their original environment.

Produced using only natural light with a long exposure and untouched by digital alteration, Höfer's photographs couple a rare intimacy with monumentality of scale. Customarily devoid of human presence, yet resonating with the academic spirit of the institution's founder, Cardinal Scipione Borghese, the *Villa Borghese* series encapsulates Höfer's sensitivity to place.

These images will be complemented by a selection of iconic images from Ben Brown Fine Arts' 2004 exhibition, marking the longstanding representation of the artist and her ongoing fascination with institutional spaces.

A member of the Düsseldorf School (Kunstakademie Düsseldorf), Höfer was a noted pupil of Bernd and Hilla Becher. Whilst retaining the Bechers' documentary style in her methodical processes, Höfer's large-scale colour prints display a heightened sympathy with her subjects' culture and history.

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Born in 1944 in Eberswalde, Candida Höfer lives and works in Cologne. After completing her training at the Schmölz-Huth Studio, she began studying with the influential photography duo Bernd and Hilla Becher in 1976, the teachers of other noted Düsseldorf School photographers including Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth, Axel Hütte and Thomas Ruff. Höfer's internationally recognised work has been shown at the Kunsthalle in Basel and Berne, the Louvre in Paris, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin. Höfer has represented Germany at the 2003 Venice Biennale, participated in documenta 11 in 2002, and her photographs are part of major museum and private collections across the globe.

Ben Brown Fine Arts has shown Höfer's work since 2004, with the gallery's first show entitled *Libraries*. Other solo exhibitions featured at the gallery include: *Palaces, Theatres, Churches and a Casino* (2007), *In Italy Part I: Florence* (2009), and *In Italy Part II: Naples* (2009).

Founded in 2004, Ben Brown Fine Arts is located on Brook's Mews in the heart of Mayfair. The gallery has prominently positioned itself on the contemporary art scene with the sole UK representation of artists such as Ron Arad, Miquel Barceló, Vik Muniz, François-Xavier and Claude Lanne, Gavin Turk, Not Vital, Heinz Mack, and the Estate of Keith Haring. Also renowned for its strong expertise in 20th Century Italian Art, the gallery has been exhibiting the work of Lucio Fontana, Alighiero Boetti and Mimmo Rotella, amongst others, since its inception. In 2009 Ben Brown Fine Arts took their first step in an international expansion with the opening of an exhibition space in Hong Kong.

## For further press information and enquires please contact:

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Monday to Friday: 11am - 6pm

Saturdays: 10.30am - 2:30pm

**Image caption:** Candida Höfer, *Villa Borghese Roma I* 2012,

C-print, Edition of 6, 180 x 217 cm. (70 7/8 x 85 3/8 in.)

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