

PRESENTATION HOUSE

A CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

MEDIA RELEASE

CAMERA LUCIDA

An exhibition of work by five international artists
opens at Presentation House Gallery

On Friday, May 12th (8 to 10 pm), the exhibition CAMERA LUCIDA will open at Presentation House Gallery. Christian Boltanski (France), Connie Hatch (U.S.A.), Alfredo Jaar (Chile), Liz Magor (Canada) and Leonel Moura (Portugal) are the artists in the exhibition, which runs from May 13 to June 18.

The artists in CAMERA LUCIDA ask us to reflect upon familiar photographic images in an unfamiliar context. Drawing from sources as common as news photography, book illustrations and snapshots, these generic images take on a compelling presence in their reconstituted form. The prominence of framing devices in the works draws attention to the conventions of seeing as does the physical play of light, emphasizing the transparent, elusive nature of the photograph (a light-drawing).

Christian Boltanski's shrine-like assemblage of snapshots and Connie Hatch's projected faces point to the distinctions between the portrait as photographic evidence and human absence. Alfredo Jaar's use of typical "third world" images are given a disturbing, ironic meaning in their cool fluorescent environments. Similarly, Liz Magor's sculpture considers the effects of mechanical reproduction on individual identity. Leonel Moura's reproductions of architectural monuments combined with text questions cultural identity.

The exhibition was curated by Helga Pakasaar for the Walter Phillips Gallery in Banff, Alberta. It will be accompanied by a catalogue, produced by the Walter Phillips Gallery, which will be available in early June.

Liz Magor will give an informal talk prior to the opening reception, at 7:15 pm on May 12th. This is open to the public and free of charge. The artist's talk is sponsored by the Canada Council.

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contact: Karen Love or Diane Evans, 986-1351

Media note: Helga Pakasaar and Liz Magor will be available for interviews. Please call the Gallery to make arrangements.