

RIDING THE EQUATOR or THE STRANGENESS OF BEING IN VARIOUS PLACES

This exhibition (at the Momenta Gallery in Brooklyn NY in October of 2009) will feature the work of Los Angeles-based photographer and critic George Porcari, augmented by two Jorge Pardo sculptures and a video loop by Naomi Fischer.

Porcari's remarkable body of work spans almost four decades. Born in Lima, Peru in the 1950s, he emigrated to Los Angeles at age 11 and began taking photographs ten years later to record his own sense of dislocation. In subsequent years, Porcari went on to document his observations of cities (New York, Chicago, Europe, Latin America) through occasional series of photographs, which have also included cinematically-inspired collages, portraits of Los Angeles/international artist friends, the US-Mexican border, and still-lives of an intensely-curated assortment of books. Porcari attended art school in New York and Los Angeles, but rather than pursue a gallery career he became a professional librarian: a vocation that has allowed him to pursue his wide range of idiosyncratic interests. Describing himself as a 'photo-journalist,' Porcari's visual vocabulary is equally informed by Bresson, Robert Frank, and Vladimir Nabokov. His images are bracingly realistic and incidentally lyrical.

Writing about Porcari's work, the novelist Veronica Gonzalez has noted "a sense of possibility mixed in with regret ... for all these images exist in the present, the present of the work, a desire for cohesion, perhaps enacted here."

The installation will be anchored by a dense assortment of images of varying sizes hung on the gallery walls. But this fixed installation will be augmented by video-loop transmission and loose prints, to be handled by viewers. This display will be facilitated by two Jorge Pardo sculptures: *Partition* (2005), a curved silver screen onto which Naomi Fischer's violently tropical video-loop will be projected, and *Table* (2002), where viewers may sit and examine loose prints from Porcari's vast bank of images.

Screenings of tangentially-related short films from France, Greece, the US and Morocco, curated by Hedi El Kholti, will be offered as public events on several evenings during the run of the exhibition.

Produced by Chris Kraus for Semiotexte and Momenta, RIDING THE EQUATOR will provide an experience that's diffuse, disassociated, yet held together by a singular view of the present.

Chris Kraus-2009