

GalerieFrancescaPia

Press release

February 2008

Bruno Serralongue **A World of Difference**

March 8 - April 12, 2008

Opening: Friday, March 7, 6 - 8 p.m.

On November 5, 2002, Nicolas Sarkozy, at the time Secretary of the Interior, decided in concurrence with the British and French governments to shut down the Sangatte refugee camp near Calais, France. Hailed as a victory in the battle against illegal immigration, the move did not succeed in stemming the flood of refugees. Consequently, local relief organizations had to tend to the four to six hundred refugees who set up camps in the uncultivated and wooded areas surrounding the city.

Since the mid 1990s, Bruno Serralongue (born 1968 in Châtelleraut, France, lives and works in Paris) seeks out such events of global political significance like a reporter, albeit on an assignment of his own and unaccredited. Thus, he attended the 2000 World Fair in Hanover, the World Social Forum in Mumbai, 2004, and the „Other Campaign“ of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) in Mexico in 2006. His travels yield astute photographic studies on politically charged global events as they unfold within a self-contained, media-driven cycle. From the point of view of an outsider, Serralongue focuses on seemingly secondary motifs and trivial scenes. The documentary photographs, thus, draw attention to the staging of a media event and allow for a critical examination of the ways in which information is produced and disseminated.

Rather than the illustrious speakers on stage, the artist will show a crowd of people seen from behind or a temporary installation of banners in an otherwise empty space at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. Judged by the pretensions of press photography, Serralongue's pictures are taken at the wrong place, the wrong time and using the wrong equipment. The complicated operation of a special camera and tripod prohibits rapid image production, resulting instead in large-scale and formally poignant photographs. Precisely in these subtle deviations lies the critical potential of Serralongue's photo series which challenge the practice of photojournalism.

Galerie Francesca Pia is pleased to show works by Bruno Serralongue for the first time. Our exhibition surveys the artist's career to date.

Current exhibitions of works by Bruno Serralongue:

Tate Modern, London (22.5.-31.8.08); Museum Folkwang (25.4.-18.7.08), Essen, *Street & Studio An Urban History of Photographic Portraiture*

Selected previous exhibitions:

Centre de la Photographie, *Backdraft*, Geneva, 2007

Institut of Contemporary Art Overgarden, Copenhagen, 2003

Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, 2002

Villa Arson, Nice, 1999

Centre Pompidou, *Photographies, nouvelles acquisitions*, Gruppenausstellung, Paris, 2007

Palais de Tokyo, *Notre histoire*, Gruppenausstellung, Paris, 2006

Frankfurter Kunstverein, *Parallel Life*, Gruppenausstellung, Frankfurt, 2005

Galerie Francesca Pia, Limmatstrasse 275, 8005 Zurich, www.francescapia.com

THE ARMORY SHOW, NEW YORK 27/03/08 - 30/03/08

Joanne Tatham & Tom O'Sullivan, „Are you feeling our meaning?“, opening April 18, 2008, 6 – 8 p.m.