

valentinabonomoartecontemporanea

## Brian McKee at Portico d'Ottavia

### 'DETRITUS'

20 MAY - 30 September 2004

On Thursday 20 May in Rome at via del Portico d'Ottavia 13, Valentina Bonomo Arte Contemporanea, the photography show of Brian McKee will be inaugurated.

Over the last four years Brian McKee traveled between the United States, Eastern Europe and Asia photographing locations seen as a testimony to the most important political events of our contemporary history.

Buildings and landscapes, marked by violent war now dilapidated and no longer in use, come to be illuminated by a bright light, rich in detail. The research of this sensitive artist is motivated by a desire to investigate history through the images he produces.

His intention is not for the photos to serve as a documentary, as one might think upon first glance. McKee, through photography, traces the signs of our civilization, investigating the destructive beauty of war.

Brian McKee conceptualizes his photos as installations. In fact, the images are produced in large format (120x160cm) allowing the spectator to live within the images, creating a physical experience in these locations.

The show presents a series of photographs entitled 'Detritus' which were all taken from the artists' trip to Afghanistan.

Inside of the ruins of these sumptuous dwellings, rediscovered by McKee, one sees the old solemnity of a time past.

Brian McKee was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1977. After attending Bard College where he studied photography with Stephen Shore, Larry Fink and Barbara Ess, he worked as an assistant in the studio of Lynn Davis. He now lives and works in New York.

The show by Brian McKee is part of the International Photography Festival in Rome.

OPENING RECEPTION 20 May at 19.00

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Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat 15.30-19.30 or by appointment