

# WORKS | PROJECTS

## PRESS RELEASE

### SARAH DOBAI

#### Studio/Location Photographs

2 May – 13 June 2009

Sarah Dobai's new body of works, Studio/Location Photographs, consists of more than a dozen photographs that explore the nature of public space in the city. The new work positions public space as a force that de-stabilises the separation of the mainstream from the marginal and the theatrical from the everyday.

The new series focuses on the image of the shopping mall, juxtaposing photographs of un-peopled sites shot in and around malls, with images of actor/models taken in the studio. In the studio the models are pictured in a sets whose construction intentionally echoes the architectural qualities of the urban spaces photographed. The demeanour of the actor/models in the studio photographs moves between the enacted and un-posed, drawing parallels between people's uneasy relation to public space in everyday life and how a model finds 'a way to be' in the theatrical context of the photo-shoot.

In Studio/Location Photographs, with its focus on the highly constructed quality of urban settings, the distinction between documentary and studio-based approaches to photography becomes fluid and hard to determine. Within this slippage, the new works create a subtle tension between echoes of the glamour of high fashion and suggestions of urban neglect and social isolation that is seductive and unsettling in equal measure.

#### About Sarah Dobai

Sarah Dobai works with photography, film and video, she has exhibited widely in the UK, Europe and America. Recent exhibitions include Galerie Zurcher, Paris (2008), Dispari Dispari, Reggio Emilia (2008), Gimpel Fils, London (2007), Kettles Yard, Cambridge (2006), Artists' Space, New York (2003). Her new 16mm film 'Nettlecombe' (2007) is currently featured in the touring exhibition/ film programme 'Figuring Landscapes' which this year is showing at Tate Modern, FACT Liverpool and Dundee Contemporary Arts and at various galleries across Australia. A selection of her recent photographic and film-works will be featured in the exhibition and publication 'Theatres of the Real' Antwerp FotoMuseum (June- September 2009). Her work features in Charlotte Cotton's 'The Photograph as Contemporary Art' Thames & Hudson, and is to be included in Michel Poivert's 'La Photographie Contemporaine', Flammarion Presse 2010.

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## Notes to editors

Preview Friday 1 May, 6~9pm

Exhibition open

10.30-6pm, Saturday – Monday, 2 -4 May,  
12-6pm, Thursday – Saturday, 7 May – 13 June 2009

Special Event:

The artist will discuss Studio/Location Photographs at 6pm, Wednesday 10 June followed by an introduced screening of her films at Picture This, including the South West premiere of her new film, Nettlecombe.

Admission free.

For more information, images or to arrange interviews or photo opportunities please email [info@worksprojects.co.uk](mailto:info@worksprojects.co.uk)

## About WORKSIPROJECTS

**WORKSIPROJECTS** is the new commercial gallery established by the independent curator Simon Morrissey. **WORKSIPROJECTS** will present a programme of solo exhibitions, off-site projects, curated group exhibitions, talks and events in Bristol. The gallery will work with a small stable of distinctive British artists and is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbour side, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. The gallery is located on the same block as both Spike Island and Picture This and is only 10 minutes walk from Arnolfini.

## Credits

The exhibition has been supported by the following funders and partners



University of the  
West of England



direct

Powerprint  Picture This  Spike Island

The artist would also like to thank Andrew Pavord and the Southwark Film Office and the Research Fund of Chelsea College of Arts and Design for their very generous support of this project. Thanks also to Direct Lighting, Powerprint, Metro Imaging for all their help and support in the production of the work.

Thanks to Aurelie Veyron, Julien Lombardi, Adam Frank Thomas, Geir Moseid, Guy Archard, Alex Harris, Fi Gabanski, Elizabeth Khan-Grieg, Alice Evans, Daniella Kemal, Clive Rowat, Carlos Skeete, Daniel Sims and students from the BA Fine Art at Chelsea and to Gary Ellen at HSS Old Kent Road. Thanks should also go to Bella Sokol, Cecile Tulkens, David France, Emmanuel Akintunde, Emily Pelly-Mounter, Esmee Desjardin, Arnaud Desjardin, Etta Brill, Harvey Causon, Keiji Ishi, Mary Lincoln and Michelle Lam who are pictured in the studio photographs.

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