

PAOLO VENTURA - STUDIO LA CITTÀ

SHOW N. 262 CURATED BY ANGELA MADESANI

3 OCTOBER > 7 NOVEMBER 2009

IN COLLABORATION WITH FORMA GALLERIA, MILANO



Before the rain - 2008 - C print - 80x100cm



Night without Moon - 2008 - C print - 100x125cm

Metaphysical atmospheres: there are no recognisable places nor is there even a precise time. However, we are talking about photographic images and, therefore, of the traces and records of apparently real situations. Where's the trick? These are the microcosms that Paolo Ventura constructs and then photographs. Just like film sets, but here too there are no precise reference points: Neo-realism, French noir, or the German cinema of Fritz Lang.

Old second class train carriages, the walls of grey buildings, the courtyard of a town that might be any town. And there is an eternal winter where the lights of a barely sketched-out life are dimmed..

The characters are puppets, made-up and dressed in the fashion of various epochs: but there is no philological yearning for reconstructing them. His is a slow work, built up patiently and planned with great attention to detail.

And then there is the circus too which in itself lies outside time: tightrope walkers, jugglers, ballerinas, clowns. The atmospheres are melancholy: this is the precariousness of existence.

A poor harlequin lies on a bed in a room dominated by loneliness. The overall feeling recalls the world of Antonio Donghi, a greatly loved painter.

Paolo Ventura's interest is not in the medium or the photographic language but is, rather, aimed at recreating a painting-based atmosphere with a language different from that of painting itself. We might, though perhaps by exaggerating slightly, trace in these works a modern pictorial matrix. If for nothing else, then at least in his attitude to the means employed.

Angela Madesani - 2009

PAOLO VENTURA was born in Milan in 1968 he lives and works in New York.

MOSTRE PERSONALI RECENTI

- 2009 *Winter Stories*, curated by Angela Madesani
Studio la Città, Verona
Fabulous Fiction, The Hague Museum of
Photography, The Hague
Winter Stories, Central Exhibition Hall, Moscow
- 2008 *Storie d'Inverno*, Forma International Center of
Photography, Milano
Winter Stories, Hasted Hunt Gallery, New York
- 2007 *Souvenir de Guerre*, Maison de la
Photographie Npdc, Lille
Viaggio nella Memoria, Galleria Nazionale
d'Arte Moderna, Roma
- 2006 *In tempo di Guerra*, Forma International
Center of Photography, Arles



Sunday Fair - 2007 - C print - 80x100 cm

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