

Through Emidio Puglielli

Enclosure

MARCH 8- 29 2008

My work looks at the relationship we have with photographs, particularly the material qualities. A photographic image and truth have a questionable association, but the one certainty about a photograph is its physical properties. When examining a photograph it can be seen that non-image elements can enlighten us about the image. For example, type of paper could indicate era or cost, text on the back give names, locations or maybe a price that indicates an extended life as a valuable, collectable object.

The back of a photograph is an interesting site. Its prime function is to support the emulsion, but on this surface we can also find contextual support for the image. All of us have flipped snap-shots over to see if anything is written there (how many old travel snaps do you have that now, years later you have no idea where that generic looking church is). We may find names or the nature of the occasion; our memories are not as reliable as we would like them to be and these little notes can trigger details about a situation we have all but forgotten. There are also machine marks, dates, locations, studio and artists logos that locate the image further. In this exhibition I take old photographs and re-present them showing the back and the front simultaneously, as if looking through them. What occurs is a confluence of context. We get the image and an explanation at the same time; a compression of time and space occurs; a little history of this photograph is presented for the viewer. Of course the material qualities of the original photograph experienced by me are gone. The physicality and the exploratory gesture of turning over that photograph are consumed by the new image, on new paper, with a new back and with new context.

Emidio is a Melbourne based artist. He holds a masters degree from the University of Tasmania where his thesis focused on the relationship between the photographic image and the paper it is printed on. While in Hobart, he was on the board of the artist run gallery INFLIGHT. He collects old photographs to use in his work and has an interest in non-representational photography. He has curated and participated in exhibitions that look at art that references photography. Emidio has exhibited widely including CCNOA in Brussels, Sydney Non Objective Projects and Westspace. THROUGH is his second show at Conical. He admires the work of Gottfried Jager and Joachim Smidt and is represented by Stephen McLaughlin Gallery, Melbourne.

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