



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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re-pose: Isaac Diggs

September 9 – November 10, 2004

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 9, 2004, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Gallery Talk by Isaac Diggs at 5:00 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA: New York based artist, Isaac Diggs, addresses issues of leisure, gender, race and sexuality in his photographs. His exhibition presents two series of work which stem from Diggs' ongoing exploration of African American beach parties. At these events, boundaries between public and private blur. In part because of their locations: the beach where certain levels of undress are encouraged. The outfit, or lack thereof, is an amplified projection of personal identity for the benefit of the spectator. As Diggs notes, "the additional presence of thousands of still and video cameras and the continuous glances of participants testify to the importance of being seen and recorded, [as well as the act] of seeing and recording. It's as if this ritual was staged primarily to be documented." Diggs, a participant only to the extent of seeing and recording the rituals, uses the camera and formal strategies to focus on specific movements and gestures of the hands. These movements suggest intimacy, immediacy and seduction of the experience. Yet paradoxically, Diggs' tight focus and magnification of the subject leads to an abstraction which in turn prevents full immersion into the pictorial illusion. The oscillation between intimacy and distance in the image leads to an undefined reality—open to multiple interpretations.

Isaac Diggs received his MFA from Bard College in 2002 and his BA from Columbia University in 1994. Diggs' first solo exhibition was held at Luxe Gallery, New York in 2004 and has been included in several group exhibitions throughout New York including *Artist in Marketplace* at the Bronx Museum of Arts, NY (2003) New Prints 2001/Autumn at the International Print Center, NY (2001) and *Black New York Photographs of the Twentieth Century*, at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, NY (1999). Diggs' work is in the collection of The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN and his work was reviewed in Art on Paper by Faye Hirsch (March/April 2002).

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs; and special events.

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