



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Sun Pictures and Other Broken Images: Richard Torchia

December 1, 2005 – March 4, 2006

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Artist Talk: 5:00 p.m. and Opening Reception: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA: Not a single printed image is presented in Richard Torchia's photographic installation. Instead, The Print Center's second floor galleries are filled with ephemeral images made by capturing and redirecting various light sources—the sun, a candle or an electric light—through a lens or perforated material to create a projected image. Torchia's site specific installation transforms the space into the camera in which visitors experience the photographic image in process. Depending on its light source, the image is always changing, defying the photograph as a single fixed image. Torchia, who does not want to add more images to an already visually full world, presents ephemeral "unfixed" images that do not commit to a decisive moment. Rather they are in constant flux depicting a singular image in multiple ways. Torchia raises the question; does an image have to be fixed to be replicated? As the final exhibition of The Print Center's 90th Anniversary Year, *Sun Pictures and Other Broken Images* brings together three decisive moments in the history of the printed image: printmakers use of the camera obscura, photographers' struggles to fix the image inside the camera, and the revival of the oldest photographic technique in an era dominated by the digital image and its capability to have unlimited reproductions.

Richard Torchia is based in Philadelphia, currently teaches at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and is Director of the Art Gallery at Arcadia University. Torchia was awarded a Pew Fellowships in the Arts the first year it was offered in 1994 and a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship in 1999. Torchia has presented his site-specific installations at the Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania (2002-2005), at Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia (1997-2001), and as part of the group exhibition *Points of Departure, Art on the Line* in Philadelphia (2000-2001). Torchia is currently installing a permanent installation at the Hilton Garden Inn as part of the Percent for Art Project commissioned by the Redevelopment Authority of Pennsylvania. Torchia is also represented in several public collections including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Prudential Life Insurance Company and the Franklin Furnace Archives, Museum of Modern Art, New York.



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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