



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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The Triumph of Democracy: Inside the Studio: Benjamin Edwards **May 31 – August 2, 2008**

Saturday, May 31
Opening Reception: 3:00-5:00pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center announces *The Triumph of Democracy: Inside the Studio*, an exhibition of digital prints by Washington, DC artist **Benjamin Edwards**. This exhibition will be the first solo show of Edwards' printed works in the United States and will include several studies that Edwards has created relating to a recently completed, epically scaled public commission entitled *The Triumph of Democracy*.

Edwards' work has always reflected his keen interest in utopias, as well as his close observation of the rampant corporate culture of the last decade. He is also inspired by the new architecture of Washington, DC, calling it a "fantasy of a perfect capitalist, contradictions and all." *The Triumph of Democracy* shows a manically detailed cityscape that is both familiar and disorienting, combining blandly handsome low-rise office buildings, vacant parking lots and fast food restaurants lining streets crammed with signs. The works included in this exhibition will show the entire wonderland along with smaller studies showing different layers of the city, breaking it apart and revealing how the hugely complex image was created. Edwards works from photographs of the generic types of buildings that all American consumers experience. He uses these photos to create virtual models using 3D modeling software, which are then combined in numerous layers to create an overall landscape.

Edwards was born in 1970 in Iowa City, IA. He attended the University of California, Los Angeles and received his M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design. He has recently had solo exhibitions in New York, Paris and Tokyo and his work has been included in a number of significant group exhibitions at such institutions as The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI; P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence, RI. His work is in a number of public collections, including the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; and the New York Public Library, New York, NY.

Edwards' work will be on view at The Print Center from May 31 to August 2, 2008. The opening reception is on Saturday, May 31 from 3:00-5:00pm. Edwards will give a public lecture on Wednesday, July 16, from 12:00-1:00pm at The University of the Arts, CBS Auditorium, Hamilton Building, 320 S. Broad St, Philadelphia, PA. This talk is cosponsored by The University of the Arts' Master of Fine Arts Program.

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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