

Project Room:
Mariana Mauricio

4 March – 10 April 2010

Private View:

Wednesday 3 March, 6–8 pm

Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 6pm

Mummery + Schnelle is pleased to announce the first exhibition of works by Brazilian artist Mariana Mauricio.

In her work Mauricio re-examines the history and environment of Rio de Janeiro, where she grew up. She hunts for old photographs – mostly capturing images of family life and holiday scenes of well-to-do Brazilian families in the 1960s and 70s – that become the basis for her work. These found images have informed Mauricio's vision of a time before her birth, but they are in stark contrast with the historical reality that Brazil was under a dictatorship at that time, which was responsible for the disappearance and torture of thousands.

Some of the original photographs have become discoloured, scratched or ripped over time and through neglect, and seem as if they have been left crumbled up at the bottom of a shoebox of photographs and negatives that didn't make it into the family album. This deterioration invests the images with a physical sense of the passing of time, loss and memory, which Mauricio builds upon. Having chosen images that contain undercurrents of staged or false cheerfulness and underlying tension, Mauricio re-works the photographs, further scratching them, or painting over, sewing into, or bleaching their surfaces. These interventions often feel violent, adding or enhancing a sense of anxiety inherent in the images.

Mauricio then transforms the photographs completely by scanning them with a high-resolution scanner and reprinting new works of art that are slightly larger than the original images. Paradoxically, in the enlarged images, the scanned stains, rips and threads seem to appear more real and pronounced. The shift in medium – from photographs to giclée prints – distances the viewer from the original object and enhances the relationship of Mauricio's interventions to the formal structure and narrative of the found image. The new print tugs the picture into the present, suggesting a circular nature of history. Mauricio's artwork begins a life of its own during which it will be subjected to new interpretations.

Images of Mariana Mauricio's works as well as full biographical information can be found on www.mummeryschnelle.com.

For further information please contact Andrew Mummery at andrew@mummeryschnelle.com or Wolfram Schnelle at wolfram@mummeryschnelle.com.

Next exhibition at Mummery + Schnelle: Graeme Todd, 15 April – 22 May 2010