

The Wayward Line

photography by Edgar Martins

press release

20 October – 18 December 2010

Calouste Gulbenkian Cultural Centre Paris



Poppets, from the series *A Metaphysical Survey of British Dwellings*, 2010

- ▶ **Landscape, place, space, and architecture have established themselves as the predominant themes in Edgar Martins' photographic imagery. Martins uses photography to develop a philosophical, quasi-scientific investigation, examining various minimalist concepts of the contemporary urban landscape.**

A stage for the encounter with the everyday, his work calls to our attention that all is flow, all boundaries are provisional, all space is permeable. It is the setting for spatial and temporal dislocation.

Moving between the factual and fictional, between the concrete and the metaphorical, the artist operates within a landscape of uncertainty, within a culture landscape of permanent flux, transition and opposition. An industrial city, a deserted freeway, a nighttime beach, a runway or an urban border, spaces are primed with a sense of purpose yet they are marginal, fragmented and dispersed.

The work maintains a close and subtle dialogue with the traditions of topography and landscape photography, but we also find evidence of a link to the cinematic, the pictorial, and the sculptural. However, Edgar Martins' photography remains unique in its psychological nuances. These genres are subjected to an approach that is simultaneously descriptive, speculative, and reconfiguring, lying as it does between the documentation of spaces and objects that are suggestive and paradigmatic in social and visual terms, and the assumption of the image as a privileged form of aesthetic and artistic contemplation and (re)appreciation..

Edgar Martins at the Calouste Gulbenkian Cultural Centre in Paris: This is Martins' first individual show in France and his largest exhibition to date. Images from seven series have been selected, all of which were produced over the last four years, including an unpublished body of work created in 2010:

A Metaphysical Survey of British Dwellings (2010), *Reluctant Monoliths* (2009), *The Rate of Convergence of Two Opposing System Trajectories* (2008/09), *When Light Casts no Shadow* (2008), *Ruins of a Gilded Age* (2008), *Dwarf Exoplanets & Other Sophisms* (2007) and *The Accidental Theorist* (2006/08).



Untitled, from the series *Ruins of a Gilded Age*, 2009



Meeting of Minds, from the series *The Rate of Convergence of Two Opposing System Trajectories*, 2008/09

The artist ▶ Edgar Martins was born in Portugal in 1977 and grew up in Macau. He has been based for many years in London, where he undertook his academic training and established his artistic career. He is currently one of the most distinguished and prolific Portuguese photographers, having gained an enormous amount of recognition from both the public and institutions in Portugal and abroad. Besides having won various awards, his work is represented in several public and private collections.
www.edgarmartins.com

Curator ▶ Sergio Mah

Exhibition Catalogue ▶ In the context of this exhibition an anthology of Edgar Martins' oeuvre will be produced.

in cooperation with Paris Photo



USEFUL INFORMATION

Dates: 20 October - 18 December 2010

Address: 51, avenue d'Iéna | 75016 Paris

Transportation: Etoile, Kléber or Iéna metro stations;
bus 30, 31 or 92

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm |
Saturday, from 1.00pm to 6.00pm

Information: 01 53 23 93 93 | www.gulbenkian-paris.org

Free entry

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The **Calouste Gulbenkian Cultural Centre** - the French delegation of the Portuguese foundation with the same name - seeks, through its multiple and varied activities, to participate in the major European debates and to make Portuguese cul-

ture known in France. The private house of its founder, Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian (1869-1955), has been home to exhibitions, concerts, and shows, as well as international conferences and symposiums for over 40 years. The Centre also houses the most important documental centre in Europe, dedicated to Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries, including over 90.000 works.

The **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation** is a Portuguese private institution created in 1956 to fulfil the wishes of its founder, Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, a financier of British nationality and Armenian origin who lived in Lisbon from 1942 until his death in 1955. He was a pioneer in the oil industry and a major art collector. His private collection is presently gathered in the Gulbenkian Museum, inaugurated in Lisbon in 1969. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation carries out varied activities in the fields of art (a museum, a modern art centre, an orchestra and a choir), heritage, education, health and science.
www.gulbenkian.pt