

# Isaac Julien at Nara Roesler Gallery

Photographs by one of the most prominent names of contemporary expanded cinema gathered under the curatorship of Mark Nash

Cocurator of Documenta11, Mark Nash is responsible for selecting the works that make up this exhibition. The selection presented in *Isaac Julien: Scopic Landscapes* offers a new refreshed contact with Isaac Julien's production, which is also currently the theme of an exhibition at Sesc Pompeia: *Isaac Julien: Geopoéticas*, which covers three decades of the artist's career. In the curatorship presented by Nara Roesler Gallery, photographs create a peculiar relationship with installation works – *True North* (2004), *Fantôme Créole* (2005) and *Ten Thousand Waves* (2010).

In the photographs, the rigor with which the artist creates takes may be observed from another angle: the eloquence of space, which is a core aspect in the language developed by Julien, is even more intense in this exhibition. As observed by the curator, Julien works with "constructed, mythical images" to raise questions such as "how to think the experience of individuals and the artistic practice as being at the same time related to a place and integrated to a global network? How to think the agonizing worlds that are presented to us – the clash of ideologies and perspectives?".

His strong social-political tone, which is evident in his narrative constructions, is presented with more subtlety in this exhibition. The visual delight of each image gradually shows his critical spirit both through the contrast among several images that create an analytical journey on (social and geographic) relations and in the careful composition of each frame, in which the mythical tone discretely raises political and aesthetical questioning. In a way, this exhibition takes the narrative fragmentation experience often proposed by the artist to another level.

## About Isaac Julien

Born in 1960, in London, where he lives and works, Isaac Julien graduated in painting and fine art film from St. Martins School of Art in 1984. The year before, he had created his first film collective, called Sankofa Film and Video Collective. One of his most renowned films is *Young Soul Rebels* (1991), which received the critics prize at the Cannes International Film Festival. In 2001, Julien was nominated for the Turner Prize. In 2003, he won the Grand Jury Prize at the Kunstfilm Biennale, in Cologne, for *Baltimore*; in 2008, his film *Derek* won the Special Teddy Award at the Berlin International Film Festival. Besides participating, with the installation *Paradise Omeros*, in the Documenta11, in Kassel (2002), he has already done solo shows in institutions, such as the Centre Pompidou, in Paris; MoCA Miami; Kerstner

Gesellschaft, Hannover; and the Chiado Museum of Contemporary Art, Lisbon. His most recent large-size installation, *Ten Thousand Waves* has been seen at the The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2012); Helga de Alvear Gallery, Madrid; ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai; Hayward Gallery, London; Bass Museum, Miami; ICA, Boston; Kunsthalle, Helsinki; and at the Sydney Biennial (2011). In 2013, the New York MoMA will hold a special show dedicated to his work. His works are part of the collections of Tate Gallery, in London; MoMA and Guggenheim Museum, in New York; and the Centre Pompidou, in Paris, among other institutions and private collections.

### **About the curator**

Mark Nash is a curator and cinema critic. He is currently professor and head of the Department of Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art, London. Cocurator of Documenta11 (2002), his most recent exhibition, *One Sixth of the Earth*, at MUSAC (Spain), focuses on contemporary works involving moving image in the former Soviet Union. In the 1970s and 1980s, he became actively involved in the British film scene as editor of Screen magazine (1976-81) and as an independent filmmaker. His essays from that period are in the book *Screen Theory Culture* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008).

Scopic Landscapes

Dec. 1 – Jan. 12 2013

Monday – Friday, 10am to 19pm

Saturday, 11am to 15pm

Galeria Nara Roesler

Avenida Europa, 655 | São Paulo SP

t 55 (11) 3063 2344 | 3088 0593

info@nararoesler.com.br