

MICHEL SOSKINE INC.

ABELARDO MORELL. *The Universe Next Door*

Recent Works. Photography

17 September - 31 October, 2009

<http://www.soskine.com/>

Opening on September 17th, Michel Soskine will be exhibiting recent works by Cuban American photographer Abelardo Morell (La Habana, 1948).

Titled *The Universe Next Door*, Morell's second Madrid show, will present for the first time large *camera obscura* color photographs together with smaller black and white still lifes.



The Universe Next Door seems to deepen in Thoreau's quote "The Universe is bigger than our vision of it". In Morell's words, Life is too big, too radiant and chaotic... Since we cannot afford to see Life directly, we all need a medium to enable us to see it. Morell's medium is photography. It is his tool to reveal the secret, to make visible the invisible.

Morell first picks out a scenario, a particular anonymous room. Within

the original choice is already prescient the idea of the future projected image of the exterior, an election that will define the geographic location of the room and result in a visual interplay between both spaces.

In the tradition of the Camera Obscura, a technique rediscovered by Leonardo da Vinci, the artist first darkens the windows of a room to the exception of a pinhole letting the light in. Through it, the image of the exterior is projected, inverted, onto the interior.

With time exposures of up to 9 hours, Morell captures the fusion of two Universes into a single image.



Camera Obscura: View of Central Park Looking North, Fall, 2008

This almost rudimentary process, which happens to be the basics of the photography, continues to amaze our high-tech generation.

Looking at Morell's works and trying to technically and visually understand them, one is overwhelmed by a sense of miracle entwined with a certain mysterious *drama* caused by the conscience of two realities becoming one. A new order-disorder caused by the interaction

of the private and the public spaces, the intimate with the general.

With color photography, Morell brings a new accent to his recent work: A *path* through an almost deserted Manhattan room with projections of Central Park's green trees on a summer day is seen next to another version with orange and yellow colors of the autumn leaves. Also exhibited A Roman room in front of the Pantheon, a flowered Venetian intimate interior along the Grand Canal, a Florence country landscape over a book library, and an Elie Nadelman marble sculpture of a woman's head inside a Hopper painting looking at the painted seascape...

By capturing inside some of the history, the memory and splendor of the world, living quarters are turned into *boxes containing the Universe*. (Quoting Leonardo da Vinci's reference to the *camera obscura*)

In the more direct black and white "still lives" of pens and mirrors Abelardo Morell reaches for Universal issues and, with great visual and emotional intelligence, captures these *domestic mysteries* with the eloquence of a portrait.

Abelardo Morell works can be found in museums and institutions around the world such as the Metropolitan Museum, the Whitney Museum or the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Art Institute of Chicago, Le Centre Pompidou in Paris, The Gallerie degli Uffizi in Florence or the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Several publications and books have also been published.

For more information please contact the gallery.
The exhibition will continue till the 31st October.