

ubu

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VIK MUNIZ: "Photographs" & Personal Articles

Saturday, April 29th - Friday, June 9th

Reception: Friday, April 28th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Ubu Gallery will present an exhibition of the most recent work of the Brazilian-born conceptual artist, **Vik Muniz**, opening on April 29, 2000. The artist, who has shown his work virtually all over the world for the past several years, currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

Vik Muniz is a sorcerer. He investigates the area lying between appearance and reality and consistently manages to confuse the spectator with his deceptions. His retrospective, *Vik Muniz: Seeing is Believing*, took place at the International Center of Photography in New York in 1998. The monograph written by Charles Stainback in conjunction with the exhibition states:

"Vik Muniz works with the syntax of photography, but his images are not simply photographic...(his) pictures are illusions that draw from the language of visual culture but they twist and redefine our perception of both the commonplace and the fantastic, humorously and critically challenging the ability to discern fact from fiction, reality from illusion."

Two series of Muniz's work will be presented at Ubu Gallery. The first body of work is titled *Personal Articles*, fantasy newspaper pages containing imaginary news stories accompanied by computer-manipulated photographs which are printed on newsprint and presented deadpan, without explanation. The complete set of sixty will be displayed; each will be printed in an edition of six, signed and numbered by the artist. The works will be available both individually and as a boxed portfolio for installation.

The second body of work, which Ubu will present, is titled "*Photographs*." It consists of a dozen small paintings/drawings, which Muniz has created from memory after snapshots found in family albums. They maintain the appearance of the vernacular photographs that they are derived and provoke thoughtful consideration about reality, personal remembrances and common experience. Also these snapshots show the interaction between photography and drawing. Vince Aletti, writing in *The Village Voice*, has said that Muniz "makes pictures of pictures - sly, punning documents that subvert photography by forcing it to record not the natural world but a fiction, a simulation."

Simultaneous with Ubu's exhibition, Muniz's photographs will also be shown at Brent Sikkema Gallery in Chelsea.