



TURNER GALLERIES
artangels
INCORPORATED

SIMON OBARZANEK Untitled Movement

ANNET VAN DER VOORT Tulipa + Vanitas

18 March – 10 April 2010
opening 6 - 8pm Thursday 18 March
artist talks 3.30pm Friday 19 March

Two beautiful and darkly poetic photographic exhibitions will be showing at Turner galleries for the upcoming month.

Perth will be bursting at the seams with world-class photographic exhibitions as PhotoFreo events fill our visual art and social calendars. Turner Galleries is very pleased to be showing the work of Simon Obarzanek from Melbourne and Annet van der Voort from Germany. Simon is the first Art Angels sponsored resident artist for 2010. His residency is co-sponsored with the Central Institute of Technology where he will work and reside. Turner Galleries Art Angels are also assisting FotoFreo with Annet's accommodation.

Simon's photographs come from observing the physical movements of people pushing through the space around them in a city. He senses a universal language through movement and is drawn to this rather than their faces, as he normally is. He noted that the "strained movements against gravity struck me with force... When I see a person creating a shape with their body in the street I do not sense the individual but a part, a piece of a larger performance. Each individual connects with others to create a visual language. I did not want faces to interrupt this larger work." Simon collects the movements on his camera, as photographic sketches, then he rephotographs the movement using friends and family as models. Removed from the busy streets, dislocated, his subject is isolated and framed against a dark background. Some twist away from the camera, or stagger against an unseen wind, sheltering their face from rain that is not falling. Simon does not show their faces, which emphasises the movement and makes the figures anonymous. These photographs are theatrical and mysterious, emphasising the loneliness and alienation that can be encountered living in a big city.

Annet van der Voort is a Dutch photographer now living in Germany, whose work often centres around the themes of life and death. Her scanograms of *Tulipa* and *Vanitas* are a modern variation of the floral still-life painting of Holland's Golden Age. The complicated scanning process creates richly coloured images floating on a black background, with flowers so life-like they belie a two dimensional surface. Annet often combines fresh and decaying flowers with insects, all common subjects in traditional vanitas. Vanitas were popular subject matter with the Dutch master painters during the 16th Century, but the symbolism dates back beyond Medieval times. It reminds the viewer that everything will age and decay, that ultimately life and vanity is meaningless and that there is no escaping death. Annet's depictions of tulips similarly have their roots in Dutch history. Although not native to Europe, tulips were introduced in the early 17th Century and Holland's upper class soon were competing for the rarest varieties, with some species selling for more than the value of a large house in Amsterdam.

Annet has been exhibiting professionally since 1990 and her photographs can be found in several publications and international collections. Simon has been exhibiting for the same length of time and his work can be found in collections such as the National Gallery of Victoria, the National Portrait Gallery, Powerhouse Museum and Artbank.

Please do not hesitate to contact staff on 08 9227 1077 or email info@turnergalleries.com.au should you require more information or images from these exhibitions. Exhibition works will be available to view on line: www.turnergalleries.com.au and both artists will be available for interviews. Annet arrives in Perth on 10 March, and Simon on 17 March.