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gintaras didžiapetris

Prince

April - May 2012

opening: saturday, April 14th, 2012



The **Elba Benitez Gallery** is pleased to present *Prince*, an exhibition by **Gintaras Didžiapetris**, guest-curated for the gallery by **Ricardo Nicolau**, deputy director of the Serralves Museum.

Gintaras Didžiapetris (Vilnius, 1985) has quickly established himself as one of the most distinctive voices of his generation. His work maintains an intense exploration of the shifting cultural and historical constructs that simultaneously underlie and undermine perception and experience. Working freely with a wide range of media -- film, photography, sound art, performance, drawing, prints -- **Didžiapetris** has developed a highly informed artistic practice characterized by its subversive ambiguity and oblique poetics.

Central to Didžiapetris's work is an examination of the temporal and physical qualities that compose object-hood and image-ness, and which, although not always immediately palpable, are in turn an essential part of determining how art itself experienced. As Didžiapetris has commented: **"I am interested in structures that we cannot always touch, but that by being placed in a certain kind of order, create a real experience, or by casting a shadow, offer the promise of a thing."**

Prince (which draws its title and central motif from Machiaveli's treatise *Il Principe*) consists of works in various media that together give rise to a subtle examination of the process of becoming, which, inevitably, involves becoming something else: a prince becomes a king, a text becomes a guide to power, a landscape becomes a film, the past becomes the future, time becomes history. Even objects themselves, which can appear to have achieved a fixed state, are in fact in a constant flux of time: according to Didžiapetris, **"the past is never over and touches us 'from both ends' - on one hand as something kept, half-lost, half-known, and on the other as something that is part of current events, politics, logistics..."**

Gintaras Didžiapetris was invited to participate in the 54th Venice Biennial, ILLUMInations, curated by Bice Curiger, and has shown at the Queens International 2012 (New York), the Art Gallery of Alberta (Canada), the Salzburger Kunstverein, Power Plant (Canada), E-flux Reading Room, Fondazione Morra Greco (Italy), Unosunove (Italy) and elsewhere. Upcoming exhibitions include solo shows at the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC) in Vilnius, and he will participate in the 2012 Bucharest Biennial. *Prince* forms part of the Jugada a 3 Bandas festival in Madrid.

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