

PRESS RELEASE

8 March 2005

AUGUST art and Giacomo Picca

'Installing Landscapes'
7th April – 24th April 2005, London



Image of painting, oil on canvas, collaged on to photo of gallery

Painting landscapes is a risky undertaking. For those who say that “painting is dead”, landscape, as one of the most traditional genres, surely must be even more “dead”. How can a contemporary artist make landscape his/her own?

Giacomo Picca's works contain the archetypes -- tree, mountain, horizon -- and the formalities -- composition, texture -- expected from the tradition; but the methods employed are unexpected. For one, his canvases are not all white, gessoed, stretched fabric, some are sheets of plywood, with the surface left unpainted/ungessoed to form the ground.



"Trees for the Wood 4 – Large Enclosure"

Some of the works don't even have a ground: "Trees for the Wood 2002" are wooden trees 2 metres high, carved out so they stand as their own silhouettes.



"Trees for the Wood 2002"

There is the sensual application of paint, but there is also the gouging out of the plywood.

The choice of materials and the methods are at the heart of Picca's work. He uses plywood because it points directly to wood, thus to trees. The work "Trees for the Wood 2002" turns an old saying around, with the irony that the trees are made from wood. Knowing that Picca is Brazilian-born, one wonders whether he means to comment on his native land's export of wood? But going back to his technique, cutting into the plywood is a way to explore the material and to make a comparison with the traditional canvas.

For the show, some of the works are hung on the walls, but others stand in the middle of the room so that the space of the gallery becomes their canvas. In affect, we have installed a "landscape" within the gallery.

Landscape isn't "dead" for us. It is alive through the address with new materials and the interaction with its environment.

About the Artist:

Giacomo Picca is a Brazilian-born and London-based artist who studied Engineering at the Sao Paulo Institute of Engineering, Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art & Design, Wimbledon School of Art and completed his MA at Goldsmiths College in 2000. He has exhibited widely throughout the UK, Spain and Germany. Solo shows include 'Geografias' in Madrid and 'Trees for the Wood' in London. Last year he curated the shows: 'draw_drawing_' and 'cosy universe_2004'. This year, he has been commissioned to undertake a Public Art Project by 'Arts Trail' for the North Kensington area of London.

About the Gallery:

August art is a fledgling gallery that is interested in interrogating the traditions of the fine art gallery.

"Installing Landscapes":

7 – 24 April
Thur – Sat 12 – 6, Sun 12 - 3

Baldwin Terrace (off Wharf Road)
Islington, London, N1

August art Director: Winnie Sze
www.augustart.co.uk

info@augustart.co.uk
(020) 7608 1252

For more information or copies of the images (separate from the document), please contact the gallery.