

Announcing the upcoming solo exhibition at Republic Gallery:

Blaine Campbell
a repurposed architecture



Ibrahim, 2006, chromogenic print, 32" x 44" (image size 24" x 36")

The series *a repurposed architecture* explores a building complex in transition in Istanbul, Turkey. Over the course of a week in 2006, Blaine Campbell had the opportunity to freely move about Üsküdar İmam Hatip Lisesi, compiling a variety of architectural images. This space held a certain fascination, given its state of disrepair and moreover its age and novelty in comparison to the frequent use of Modernist concrete forms in Vancouver and the Netherlands. The complex had previously seen incarnations as a monastery, a prison, and a school, and is now slated to become studios and instructional space for the fine arts university. This repurposing of space is somewhat different from the predominant tendency – as evidenced in Vancouver, with its persistent and accelerating construction boom – to replace rather than re-use. The images in *a repurposed architecture* attend to the Romanticist history of an aesthetic fascination with the past and decay, while referencing contemporary forms such as the work of Gabriel Orozco and Jeff Wall's *Diagonal Composition*.

Blaine Campbell is a Vancouver-based artist working in photography and sculpture. His areas of investigation include the inherent properties of photography and their relation to the viewer, landscape and its modification as a component of social identity, and processes of mediation and artifice. A recent graduate of Emily Carr Institute with a

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B.F.A. in Photography, Campbell previously completed B.Math. and M.Sc. degrees in mathematics. In 2007, his work *Transient Architectures for New Tomorrows no. 5: The Bluff* received the national award in the BMO 1st Art! invitational juried competition and the emerging artist award from the Contemporary Arts Society of Vancouver, and was shown at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto. Concurrent to his show at Republic Gallery, Campbell's work can be seen at the Surrey Art Gallery in the exhibition "Search/Research: Contemporary Landscapes."

a repurposed architecture will be showing at Republic Gallery from April 18th to May 31st, 2008, with an artist reception on Saturday, April 19th, 2 - 5 pm. Gallery hours are 11 am - 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday or by appointment.

For more information, please contact Pantea Haghighi by phone at 604.632.1590 or via email at pantea@republicgallery.com.