

A R T E C O N T E M P O R A N E A

A L B E R T O
P E O L A

Paola De Pietri – Lala Meredith Vula

Opening: 7 p.m. Tuesday 8 April 2008

Exhibition: Thursday 9 April 2008 – Saturday 17 May 2008

Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 3.30 – 7.30 p.m. Mornings by appointment

The Galleria Alberto Peola presents the latest work by Paola De Pietri and Lala Meredith-Vula.

The decision to exhibit the work of these two artists side by side is not only due to the fact that both use photography, or the skill with they both create large-scale pieces (gentle colours by Paola De Pietri and sharp black and white by Lala Meredith-Vula), but also the presence of shared themes that bind the weave of their narration.

The series *Shifting Borders* by Lala Meredith-Vula (English mother and Albanian father from Kosovo) is a personal journey between two cultures. The artist or a model is photographed in traditional Albanian clothing in different places in Kosovo and Albania, where tradition is still woven in many ways into contemporary life, and in England. In some places, these clothes do not seem out of context. They are coherent with the surrounding medley of timeless gestures, environments and landscapes. In her other work, she highlights the juxtaposition between past and present. Here, the present is clearly marked by history, which Meredith interrogates dramatically. This show closes with some photographs taken in Zimbabwe, adding another piece to her personal artistic journey across borders and at once revealing a myriad of facets that make up her identity.

Since the outset, Paola De Pietri has always focused her artistic research on the relationship between people, time and space. Her landscapes and cityscapes devoid of people are charged with an almost metaphysical breath of silence and suspension. Other photos show single full-length portraits of men and women who share her date of birth (31 December, 1960); then there are images of what it is like to be a mother with a ten-month-old baby as well as those showing travellers at an airport. This is a search for identity among the personal and collective stories that flow through generations. In her latest projects, *La nuova casa* and *Storie immaginate*, De Pietri pursues her investigation into places that become the bedrock on which identity and individuality are built. To do this she has photographed the “homes” of immigrants on the Padana Plane in Italy. Located in a part of the city or countryside that has become an integral part of personal experience, the house not only shelters, but also provides a habitat in which to recognise oneself.

Paola De Pietri was born in 1960 in Reggio Emilia, where she lives and works.

Lalla Meredith-Vula was born in Sarajevo in 1966. She lives and works in Leicester, England.

For further information please contact the gallery.

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