

for immediate release:

SERGIO PURTELL
IN BROOKLYN:
ARCHITECTURES OF DISAPPEARANCE
April 8 – May 16, 2015

Wednesday, April 29, 7 – 8 PM:
Photographing & Documenting Brooklyn

Sergio Purtell &

Thomas Roma, Professor at Columbia University's School for the Arts, and Director of the Photography Department; whose photographs of Brooklyn appeared in one-person and group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art and the International Center of Photography

in conversation with **Susan Kismaric**, current Adjunct Professor of Photography at Fordham University, former Curator of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art



Brooklyn, NY, April 23, 2015 – ART 3 is pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by **SERGIO PURTELL**. *In Brooklyn: Architectures of Disappearance* is on view at ART 3 gallery at 109 Ingraham Street in Bushwick, Brooklyn, from April 8 to May 17, 2015, Wed-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-6.

In Brooklyn: Architectures of Disappearance forms only a part of the artist's greater project *Real*. Mingling an almost de Chirico-esque sense of place with a documentarian's eye for detail, Purtell's photographs evidence an ever-changing cityscape in the process of its own disappearance. The works selected for exhibition were taken in Bushwick, Williamsburg, and Gowanus, and hauntingly portray structures and landmarks already repurposed or removed, such as the 1882 Domino Sugar Factory in Williamsburg, the once-prominent Kentile Floors sign in Gowanus, and the former Bushwick warehouse now occupied by the Luhring Augustine Gallery.

Begun in 2008, the project as a whole strikingly reveals rapid socio-economic changes throughout the US, taking for its subject-matter regions whose gentrified social and architectural landscapes fragment into the unfamiliar, creating an emotional climate of stark estrangement. Encompassing Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx, as well as parts of New England and eastern regions of the States, ART 3's curators have chosen to focus on the parts of *Real* that relate to Brooklyn. These black-and-white photographs document an invisible *telos* underlying the surface materiality of the spaces pictured.

Purtell traces the outlines of revenant human actions through Brooklyn's empty streets, underscoring the strangeness of local businesses bereft of commerce, graffiti seemingly relegated to a proscribed space, and makeshift hovels where the homeless can shelter for warmth. Figures rarely make an appearance in these photos, only occasionally will two people eerily drift by canoe through the Gowanus channel, or a young man in wedding attire destroy his own car. Meanwhile, the same place and time yields a dark-haired woman searching through a portable greenhouse.

Populated or not, these images are all the more alluring because they document ordinary actions that have become momentous in light of the changes Brooklyn has since undergone.

In the words of Purtell: *"This photographic project is large in scope. I want it to be dense, to create a visual catalog of current America through a journey. It is in the course of a journey that one looks to the landscape for traces, metaphors and the visual facts of this life"*.

Purtell's sensitivity toward people and landscapes was developed during his childhood travels across Chile, which comprised the busy streets of Santiago as well as the lonely expanses of the PanAmerican Highway into Patagonia. Among his most important influences, he credits the obsessive narratives of Chilean author Roberto Bolaño, and the photographer Tod Papageorge who was his university mentor at Yale.

Press release written by Jeffrey Grunthaler

SERGIO PURTELL, American, b. 1955 in Santiago, Chile, lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He moved from his native Santiago de Chile to the US in 1973, after Pinochet's coup. He received his BFA in photography from RISD. After teaching photography in New Haven he moved to New York City in the mid-1980's. As a fine art photographer Purtell has exhibited worldwide, with most interest in his work in Europe. His works from this period are in many public and private collections in USA, Germany Japan, France, Italy, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Chile and Panama. In the 1990s he turned to commercial photography and worked for design studios, prestigious magazines and publishers. Purtell went on to pursue his love of fine art printing and in 1996 opened print studio **Black and White on White**, specializing in exhibitions and books for distinguished fine art photographers (his first job was for the **Walker Evans** estate). The studio is now located in Bushwick, Brooklyn, where he continues his collaboration with many major artists, estates, museums, and galleries, and again works on his own fine art photography.

THOMAS ROMA (formerly **Thomas Germano**), American, b. 1950 in Brooklyn, NY, is an American photographer who has worked almost exclusively since 1974 exploring the neighborhoods and institutions of his native Brooklyn, photographing scenes from churches, subways and everyday life, using a homemade camera. He has published several books of photography. Roma is currently a Full Professor at Columbia University's School for the Arts, and the Director of the Photography Department, which he founded. He has also taught photography at Yale University, Fordham University, The Cooper Union, and The School of Visual Arts.

Roma has been awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships and his work has appeared in one-person and group exhibitions, including one-person shows with accompanying books at the Museum of Modern Art and the International Center of Photography in New York City. His work is featured in numerous collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. For one of his collections of photographs, titled *Come Sunday*, Roma attended more than 150 religious services at 52 churches in Brooklyn over a period of three years.

SUSAN KISMARIC was a Curator in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art until March 2011. She first joined the Museum in 1976 as Study Center Supervisor and subsequently worked as Assistant Curator and Associate Curator. She served as Acting Director of the Department from 1980 to 1981 while its former Director, John Szarkowski, was on sabbatical leave. Ms. Kismaric organized over thirty exhibitions during her thirty-five year tenure at MoMA. These include *a shimmer of possibility. Photographs by Paul Graham* (2009), *Present Tense. Photographs by JoAnn Verburg* (2007), *Fashioning Fiction in Photography since 1990* (2004) (with Eva Respini), *Path of Resistance* (2000) (with Joshua Siegel), *David Goldblatt: Photographs from South Africa* (1998), *Manual Alvarez Bravo* (1997), *American Politicians: Photographs from 1843 to 1993* (1993), *British Photography from the Thatcher Years* (1991), *California Photography: Remaking Make-Believe* (1989), *Jan Groover* (1987), *Self-Portrait: The Photographer's Persona 1840-1985*, *William Klein* (1981), *American Children* (1981), and *Larry Fink* (1979). She is the author of *California Photography: Remaking Make-Believe*, *Jan Groover*, *American Children*, *British Photography from the Thatcher Years*, *Judith Joy Ross*, and *Fashioning Fiction in Photography since 1990*, among other publications. Ms. Kismaric has also contributed essays to a variety of books published by the Museum, including *Modern Women: Women Artists at The Museum of Modern Art* (2010), *MoMA Highlights since 1980* (2007) and *Modern Starts. People, Places and Things* (2000). Ms. Kismaric organized four of the Department's annual New Photography series. These exhibitions introduced the work of the photographers Paul Graham, Uta Barth, Rineke Dijkstra, An-My Le and Vik Muniz, among others, to a broader audience. For the Museum's International Program, Ms. Kismaric co-organized with John Szarkowski, 20th. Century Photographs from The Museum of Modern Art, exhibited at the Seibu Museum of Art in Tokyo in 1982.

ART 3 opened in Bushwick in May 2014 near Luhring Augustine, created by **Silas Shabelewska**, formerly of **Haunch of Venison** and **Helly Nahmad Gallery** in partnership with **Monika Fabijanska**, former Director of the **Polish Cultural Institute in New York**.

Detailed information about the artist: www.artsy.net/art-3/artist/sergio-purtell and www.artsy.net/art-3/artist/sergio-purtell

Please contact ART 3 info@art-3gallery.com for inquiries, images and interview requests

LISTINGS:

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Conversation:	Wednesday, April 29, 7-8 PM

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Where:	ART 3 Gallery, 109 Ingraham Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237
Transportation:	L train to Morgan Avenue; front of the train; walk two blocks
Admission:	free
More information:	www.art-3gallery.com