

PERSISTENCE

A history of Europe

Claudio Gobbi



Curated by Daniele De Luigi

December 13, 2008 – February 14, 2009
vernissage: december 13, 2008 - h 6.30 pm

Jarach Gallery is pleased to present *Persistence. A History of Europe*, a solo show of the work of Claudio Gobbi (1971, lives in Paris). The exhibition presents 18 medium and large format photographs, extracted from a larger series of images produced by the artist over the course of the past several years, shot within the theatres and historic clubs of various European cultural capitals, including Berlin, Paris, Milan, Barcelona, Prague and Warsaw.

Claudio Gobbi's images cover twentieth century Europe through the theatres, cinema and recreational clubs of its cultural capitals. They however do not show, as often occurs, the breadth and spaciousness of these principle environments. Rather they reveal the artist's attention to architectural detail, interior design and decorative elements. The photographs, produced with an exceptional formal rigour, give space to an impeccable composition of lines and levels, lights and chromatic scales, with a predilection for symmetry. Nonetheless, this perfectionism, which leads him to remove all of the objects and signs of temporary presence, generating an effect of quasi-fiction in real spaces, is, in reality, directed at the spectator. It is meant to bring him or her to another level of reflection, one of a historic and sociological nature. This process serves as a tool for the objectification of the photographed spaces, beyond contingencies, so as to highlight the linguistic elements which permit one to identify a common substrata and to reveal the existence of a slice of European identity. This identity has, in the spaces of spectacle and meeting, always held a privileged position from which to manifest itself. Claudio Gobbi thus manages to alter the perception of the real, and simultaneously to establish upon this an objective discourse, leading to a reflection on both our history and popular imagination.