

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-JACKSON FINE ART

Mona Kuhn, *Evidence*

&

Massimo Vitali, *Photographs*

OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST: FRIDAY MARCH 16TH , 6-8PM

SPECIAL BOOKSIGNING WITH MONA KUHN, SATURDAY MARCH 17TH, 11:AM

SHOW DATES: MARCH 16TH -APRIL 28TH

Jackson Fine Art is proud to exhibit, *Evidence*, a selection of photographer **Mona Kuhn's** most captivating recent color work. In her second solo show at Jackson Fine Art, **Kuhn's** exquisite photographs of people who take summer refuge at a naturist community on the coast of France are elusive yet grounded. While as viewers we are privy to the sight of her subjects' smooth and graceful contours, their comfortableness with their own bodies, we are caught off guard by the ambiguities that remain. Most of us associate physical nakedness with the unfettered bearing of ourselves, nothing left for us to hide behind. Yet, with **Kuhn's** subjects, though they reveal their bodies, they do not reveal themselves. Their relationships to one another are implied, but hardly explained. We cannot know how the person in the foreground relates to the person in the background. We cannot see expressions of emotion on unfocused faces. We can only imagine what is missing. **Kuhn** employs not only the use of her lens, but masterful and eloquent manipulation of color and light to convey both their obvious physicality and enigmatic interaction. **Kuhn** knows her subjects, "collaborators" as she describes them, spending the last twelve summers with them. However, she is selective in what she lets her viewers know about her subjects. Just as in some of these photographs, although she gives us a window to see inside, our view is ambiguous.

Mona Kuhn was born in Brazil in 1969, of German descent. She has degrees from both Ohio State University and the San Francisco Art Institute. Since 1998, she has been an independent studies scholar at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. She was a nominee in 2004 and 2006 for the prestigious *Prix Photographique* BMW- ParisPhoto Award. Several institutions have collected her work, including the San Francisco Museum of Art and the Knoxville Museum of Art in Tennessee. She currently lives in Los Angeles. Both of her monographs published by Steidl, *Photographs* and *Evidence*, her newest book, will be available for purchase at the gallery. Mona will be attending the opening on Friday March 16th and will be signing her newest book, *Evidence*, on Saturday, March 17th at 11:00am.

In conjunction with Mona Kuhn, Jackson Fine Art is pleased to present the acclaimed Italian photographer **Massimo Vitali's** first solo show at the gallery. Like Kuhn's interest in a "lifestyle at the beach", Massimo's large-scale photographs of people at leisure exude the simultaneous feelings of warmth and refreshment one experiences when jumping into the ocean on a sweltering afternoon. Their lucid imagery, airy and watery palette are indeed what make these photographs breathtaking, but amongst these crowds of people covering these sandy shores lies a subtle but profound understanding of human interaction-between intimates, crowds, and environment. The family on the beach is surrounded by other small assemblies of people. These small clusters, seemingly infinite in some photographs, combine together to form enormous and diverse crowds, their destination the only commonality they share. Each person has his own impact on the beach, leaving imprints in the sand, interrupting the current in the ocean. The beach changes its visitors in small ways too, leaving saltwater in hair and sunshine on skin. Each relationship and interaction, authentically captured by **Vitali's** unnoticed camera, is individually unaware of its contribution to the whole. **Vitali**, however, invites his viewers to bear witness to their summation.

Massimo Vitali was born in Italy in 1944. In 1964, he graduated from The London School of Printing with a degree in photography. He has worked as a photojournalist and a cinematographer. Beginning to work with large-format photography in the early 1990s, he began his beach series in 1995. His work can be found in the collections of the Guggenheim in New York, the Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain, and the Elton John Collection. **Vitali's** latest book published by Steidl, *Landscape with Figures*, will be available for purchase at the gallery. **Vitali** currently resides in Italy

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3115 East Shadowlawn Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10-5 pm. For more information please contact Malia Stewart at malia@jacksonfineart.com