

*** Press Release ***

Mat Collishaw 'Ideal Boys'

May 17 to June 28

In his exhibition at Ridinghouse Editions Mat Collishaw is showing a series of photographs he made in Naples earlier this year. They take their subject matter from photographs taken a century ago in Sicily by two Germans, Baron von Gloeden and Guglielmo Plushow. Both had fallen foul of the law in Germany for their obsessive interest in young boys. Rather than risking prosecution and inevitable jail sentences the two men went into exile to Italy where, over the next two decades, they took the photographs for which they are today famous.

Collishaw adopts the classical compositions used in these early photographs but substitutes the sun-soaked antique backdrops for dilapidated contemporary surroundings. To heighten the disjointedness of pose and setting, these works are printed in 3-D and presented as light boxes.

The main subject of 19th Century art; the hybrid, the angel, and the androgynous are re-contextualised in a dilapidated post-industrial scenario. The artist draws a parallel between the decadence of Fin de Siècle Europe at the turn of the last century and the post-industrial capitalist society of today. This parallel underlines the transitive quality of art and its ability to be applicable across time and physical borders.

The exhibition will be on view at Ridinghouse Editions from 17th May - 28th June. It has been curated by Thomas Dane in collaboration with Gallerie Raucci/Santamaria, Naples, where the show is running concurrently.

For further information please contact Charles Asprey on tel; 0171 255 1160