

Keeping in touch

Buenos Aires Herald - Sunday, August 24, 2003

Frank Rodick, born in Montreal, Canada, exhibited his "Liquid city" (1991 to 1999) series on his experience of urban life in different cities around the world at the Recoleta Cultural Center last year in August, in the context of The Festival of Light 2002. He will be showing again in Buenos Aires for The Festival of Light 2004 at *Arte x Arte*, the relatively new and impressive multimedia gallery run by Luz Castillo.

In between, Rodick, who made several friends in the local art world with whom he keeps in touch, corresponds with the Herald exchanging points of view on art, cinema, literature and on life in general. This friendly and intellectual pursuit, nothing trivial, has rendered aesthetic fruit: digital versions of prints of the artist's new series, *Fragments of a Celestial Abattoir*, a 25 image polyptych of 20 x 20 cms photographs, a follow up to his *Arena* series.

Abattoir, from the French verb 'abattre': to fell, is the name used in English for the place where animals are slaughtered for their meat and by products. To the artist, the abattoir of this photographic essay, is the aesthetic ground in which he explores those inner feelings and desires that we do not acknowledge, that we do not discuss openly. They simmer in our subconscious minds shaking whatever apparent comfort we may have achieved in our "waking life". "They are visions and voices from our exiled bastard selves, wails we try to extinguish with ignorance and artifice but which snarl and hum with the energy of something that never seems to end", writes Rodick.

The image we publish reminds us of the mystic erotic expressions on some of those Roman Catholic saints, as in Bernini's Saint Theresa and the Angel, who worked hard at turning their deep inner erotic desires and violent yearnings into a relationship with God. Georges Bataille in his book on "Eroticism, death and sensual-



A print out of a 25 image polyptych by Frank Rodick.

ity", describes these circumstances as "a state of communication revealing a quest for a possible continuance of being beyond the confines of the self".

The artist currently lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

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