

PRESS RELEASE

DIONISIO GONZÁLEZ – Post Utopias
1 May – 20 June 2009

As part of the Gallery Weekend, the ftc. Gallery is featuring a new exhibition of works by Spanish photographer and video artist Dionisio González.

The show, Post Utopias, presents the first photographs from a new group of works, titled Halong, as well as a recently completed BluRay video, Thinking Hanoi.

These new works are a continuation of the artist's earlier series of photographs, which originated in the favelas of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Confronted with the difficult circumstances endured by the people living there, the artist was moved to create visions of future utopias, in which the urban landscapes and housing provide better living conditions. In a very sensitive way, González adds his own architectural solutions to a place that has no architectural planning or building regulations.

González has now translated this theme to an Asian context, Vietnam's Halong Bay. Just as he did in Sao Paolo, he found favelas here, too. However, they were not in the shape of a concrete, urban juggernaut, but rather, they were comprised of almost impenetrable sea of boats on the water, where the boat people live. In his new works González unites two very different places: the picturesque Halong Bay, a popular tourist spot on Unesco's World Cultural Heritage list, and the slums on the water, inhabited by the boat people. He combines these two sites to create what seems to be, at first glance, a very natural, new landscape.

It is only upon closer inspection that a variety of details is revealed, which provide information about the actual origins of the boats in the foreground. Gradually, one begins to recognize the utopian architecture the artist has designed on his computer for this part of the globe, and which now populates the water in the form of boats.

Thanks to the extreme Cinemascope format, all of the photographs are captivating, regardless of their individual size, and the gaze is animated to sweep across the image.

The artist's video, Thinking Hanoi, deals with the vital resource of water, using what is, for us at least, a very foreign metropolis as an example.

*Dionisio González born 1965 in Gijón, Spain.
He lives and works in Seville, Spain.*