

Robert Polidori | After The Flood
Jarach Gallery, Venice | June 7 – July 29 2007



Robert Polidori | After The Flood The Jarach Gallery proudly presents After the Flood, the first solo exhibition in Italy of the Canadian photographer Robert Polidori.

After the great success of the world premiere at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Polidori brings to Venice the touching and paradoxical allure of the devastation left behind in New Orleans in the wake of hurricane Katrina.

The exhibition consists of 14 large format prints, taken between September 2005 and April 2006, 14 cross-sections of the same landscape of flooded streets, façades of mud-covered houses, pillaged shops and abandoned dwellings.

Polidori entered the bedrooms, the kitchens, and the living rooms stricken suddenly by the hurricane, transforming the chaos into intimate images of incomprehensible beauty, without ever slipping into voyeurism.

The expert eye of the great reporter, concentrates on these desolating scenarios in search of the traces of the magic and vitality that once made New Orleans unique, giving it back its essence.

"I lived in New Orleans as a teenager, I felt the need to return, to witness the real scope of the crisis and to ensure that the city and its people will not be forgotten."

The over 500 photographs, which comprise the series, have been brought together in a catalogue: *After the Flood* (Steidl, 2006, 320 pages) available in the gallery on the occasion of the opening on June 7.

The photographer will be present for the book signing.

A master of journalism of images and a New York reporter specialized in architecture, Polidori defines himself as a "psychological witness", due to his commitment to documenting tragedies, among which New Orleans, lest they be forgotten. Some of his reknowned works from earlier series have been those dedicated to the decadent allure of Havana and the great restorations of Versailles, as well as his extraordinary reportage of post-Chernobyl. Some of these photographs, by request, are available for viewing at the Jarach Gallery.

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