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ROSEGALLERY

Martin Parr
think of ENGLAND

21 January - 28 February. 2006

Reception for the Artist
Saturday. 21 January. 2006
from 6-8

It is hard to voice an opinion about Martin Parr's photographs without feeling exposed. His satirical documents of the foibles and shibboleths of society's various strata can be as slyly revelatory in the responses they elicit as in the prosaic absurdities they portray. Scorn, guilt, envy, cynicism, fear, indignation and sympathy, as well as a reluctance to so emotive over such seemingly innocuous tableaux are integral to the exciting ambiguity generated by Parr's social cataloguing. The provocative atmosphere surrounding his photographs, however, can be a distraction from Martin Parr's more simple virtuosity. He is an unabashedly astute observer: an often incisive, frequently comic, always poised documentarian whose unwillingness to mollify his scrutiny with the pretense of sanctimony is refreshingly honest. It is his ability to so deftly and elegantly cast both subject and observer in such an unsettling but true relief that makes Martin Parr so compelling. RoseGallery is pleased to present its third exhibition of photographs by this unforgiving artist and photo-journalist; a hard-hitting, and hilarious exposure of Englishness particular to Parr's own perspective of the world at large. The nostalgia and tacky traditions of British society are revealed in tight and unrelenting snap-shots that are as grotesque as they are romantic.

Growing up in the English suburbs of the early 1960's, Martin Parr's career as a new documentary photographer was augured by his predilection for collecting and his grandfather's enthusiasm for photography. After attending Manchester Polytechnic, where his controversial diploma show, 'Home Sweet Home', polarized the faculty, Parr moved to Hebden Bridge and began recording the lives and traditions of his neighbors. He subsequently moved to Ireland, where he produced the book *Bad Weather* (1982), and upon his return to England, gained acclaim with his photographs of New Brighton vacationers, illustrated in his book *The Last Resort* (1986). Two of Parr's next collections, *The Cost of Living* (1989) and *Signs of the Times* (1992) (a collaboration with filmmaker Nick Barker), cemented his reputation not only as one of England's preeminent color photographers, but also as one its most trenchant satirists. In 1994 he became a member of Magnum Photographic Corporation, and in 2002 a large retrospective of his work was mounted by the Barbican Art Gallery and the National Museum. Parr continues to live and work in England. His recent publications include *Common Sense* (1999), *Boring Postcards* (1999), *Autoportrait* (2000), *Think of England* (2000), *Martin Parr*, a monograph, Phaidon Press (2002), *Saddam Hussein's Watches*, Chris Boot Ltd. (2004), and *Fashion Magazine*, Magnum, (2005).

Santa Monica -- Martin Parr: *Think of England* an exhibition of Fuji Crystal Archive prints will be on view from 21 January, 2006 through 28 February, 2006. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, 21 January, from 6 to 8 PM. The gallery is located in the Bergamot Station Art Center, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Gallery G-5, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 PM. For more information, contact us at (310) 264-8440; info@rosegallery.net <http://www.rosegallery.net>.