

OSMOS

ADDRESS

STUART RINGHOLT: nudes, signs, and a contract

November 3, 2015 – January 10, 2016

Extended hours Sunday, January 10, 10am

OSMOS Address
50 East First Street
New York, NY 10003

Tuesday to Friday 11am to 5pm and by appointment

Stuart Ringholt has a reputation as “the artist who gives naked tours of his exhibitions,” but these performances are not staged to be publicity stunts. It’s not about shocking the viewer or about institutional critic or even about producing institutionalized spectatorship. Ringholt’s artistic acts, evoke therapy not theory – á la love not war – all of it sincerely packaged with a healthy dose of desire.

In the series entitled *Nudes* (2013) currently installed at OSMOS Address, Ringholt collages images of artworks (and the occasional book) onto sassy male and female pin ups, sometimes only partially covering the “naked parts” of their bodies. As Robert Leonard notes in *THE ARTIST WILL BE NAKED*, concealing the rude bits, only makes the “soft-core images more suggestive and obscene.” The viewer kind of stands in for an absent owner-collector eyeing his possession – the “performing” art object and the hired sex object directed to position it between her legs. Fifty framed collages wrap the gallery solicitously in vertical pairs – precarious tops and bottoms, many with a healthy beckoning of gender bending.

Nearby in First Park on the northeast corner of Houston Street and Second Avenue, Ringholt installs an accompanying large-scale sculpture entitled *Signpost* (2007-2015). Using the standard materials for a street sign, the artist facilitates an unexpected encounter with the range of emotions named on arrows pointing in different directions. Ringholt is represented by Milani Gallery, Brisbane. This public art project is part of an on-going collaboration of OSMOS and First Street Green, supported by NYC Parks.

OSMOS Address is a project space for art gatherings, publications, and exhibitions in the East Village storefront that was once a saloon frequented by Emma Goldman and other radicals. OSMOS has established itself as an international platform for the exchange of ideas and images.

Since 2008, First Street Green (FSG) has converted a derelict lot at 33 E. 1st Street in Manhattan into an open art space serving the Lower East Side community. FSG provides ongoing cultural activity in First Park by engaging emerging artists, architects, community and cultural groups through a series of programs that activate this public space.

NYC Parks’ Art in the Parks program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, collaborations with arts organizations and artists have produced hundreds of public art projects in New York City parks. For more information visit www.nyc.gov/parks/art.

For more information please contact Cay Sophie Rabinowitz or Tamara Sager
osmos.assistant@gmail.com