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MARTIN PARR
THINK OF ENGLAND
& COCKTAIL

18 November - 11 February 2006

Kamel Mennour is pleased to present « Think of England » & « Cocktail » Martin's Parr first solo exhibition at the Gallery.

The double exhibition « Think of England » & « Cocktail », presented at the galerie kamel mennour, is not just another exhibition in the prolific life of Martin Parr. Following on from the retrospective held by the Maison Européenne de la Photographie this summer in Paris, and after the "Think of England & Germany" exhibition at the Kunsthalle in Mannheim (Germany), this is a panorama of the last few years - a thematic exhibition focused on Martin Parr the globetrotter. Across numerous photographic series from the 1990s, the idea behind the exhibition is to demonstrate the English photographer's view of his contemporaries, whether they be his British compatriots, his European neighbours (particularly the Belgians) or, further away still, the Russians and the Japanese. The world of Parr is here in its entirety, from seaside kitsch to the English middle classes, via sweets in acid colours.

Martin Parr has built up an international reputation through his oblique approach to social documentary. In his colourful, bright photographs, Parr concentrates on the absurdity and mundanity of our habits, with an affectionate, distant and amused gaze, but one that is always tinged with a hint of irony and cynicism. For, when he observes us, it is truly with an entomologist's eye, examining under a magnifying glass the tiniest details of our everyday life, without compromise or concession. By scratching the surface of his clichés, far beyond the comic nature of his photographs, we discover the intelligence in Martin Parr's work beneath the visible face of society, he subtly denounces the ridiculousness and cruelty of our contemporary societies, globalisation, mass tourism and the addiction to new technologies (for example the *Phone Project* series).

At 60 rue Mazarine a selection of works from the Think of England series will be presented. At 72 rue Mazarine the majority of the exhibition will present works drawn from the series « Common Sense », « Small World », « Benidorm », « Bored Couples », « Food », « Think of Germany », « Knokke-Le-Zoute », « Stalin World », « Cherry Blossom Time in Tokyo » and « Phone Project ».

Martin Parr was born in 1952 in Epsom, Surrey (England). He studied photography at Manchester Polytechnic from 1970 to 1973. In 2005 his work has been exhibited at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, the House Gallery in Vancouver, and in Paris at the MEP, the Bon Marché and as part of the Magnum retrospective at the Centre Pompidou, as well as more recently at the Kunsthalle in Mannheim (Germany). He has also participated in PhotoEspaña in Madrid.

Mériadek Caraës

Martin Parr « Think of England » & « Cocktail » is on show at galerie kamel mennour Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11am to 7pm.

For further information, please contact Marie-Sophie Eichê, Jessy Mansuy-Leydier and Emma-Charlotte Gobry-Laurencin.