PRESS RELEASE

**ROBERT POLIDORI**

***Versailles***

opening **Saturday 15th January 2011**

from 3 pm to 8 pm

**cocktail from 5 pm**

Robert Polidori will attend the opening

**on show from 16th January to 27th March 2011**

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 10.30 am – 7.30 pm

Wednesday, Thursday 10.30 am – 9.00 pm

Monday, 3.30 pm – 7.30 pm

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**ROBERT POLIDORI**

***Versailles***

Galleria Carla Sozzani presents *Versailles* by Robert Polidori: an exhibition entirely focused on the powerful beauty of the *Palace of Versailles*. A selection of 35 large-scale photographs that Robert Polidori captured over a span of twenty-five years addressing the conservation of Versailles, the lavish palace outside of Paris which was home to the kings of France until the French Revolution.

Robert Polidori approaches the restoration and revision of *Versailles* in a similar method as his past photographic projects. He continues the idea of presenting the interior of a room as a means of insight into the soul of those who inhabited them. Polidori believes that a room's interior communicates the values and ideas of its inhabitants and its details on the walls present the way that the person intended themselves to be viewed. Unlike the earlier projects of *Hurricane Katrina* and *Chernobyl* where these interior spaces were captured after a disastrous event, Versailles is presented over 25 years of restoration. Each room is presented in rich detail, conveying layers of its history of the many occupants throughout time. With its constant revisions by Louis XIV and his predecessors as well as the restorations, Polidori is able to reveal a rich layering of personalities and ideas.

With this body of work Polidori challenges the idea of restoring the palace to its original state. For Polidori, Versailles is not so much genuinely old as a constant re-fabrication of the old in order to keep the past alive. Polidori states "With *Versailles*, I had the opportunity to witness museum restoration but I realized what was really going on was historical revisionism. What does it mean to restore something? It means to make something old new again… When you choose to restore a certain room as it was in a certain period, the period you chose is based on your contemporary worldview."

Robert Polidori is a master of special esthetics and composition, his pictures are complex still lifes, which, in their colorfulness and unique quality, provide a backdrop for the imagination of the beholder. In the peaceful stillness and the detailed nature of his pictures lies an exceptional force.

Robert Polidori was born in 1951 in Montreal, Quebec. He is considered one of the world's leading architectural photographers. His photographs of neglected and estranged cities including Chernobyl, La Havana and New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina have received world wide acclaim. He is the author of several books, most recently *Parcous Muséologique Revisté*, an epic three volume collection of his Versailles. He has been awarded the *Alfred Eisenstaedt Award* for Magazine Photography in 1999 and 2000 and the *World Press Award* for his coverage of the Getty Museums construction in 1998. He is a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*.

**ROBERT POLIDORI**

1951 Born in Montreal, Canada

1980 M.A. from State University of New York at Buffalo

1998 Staff Photographer at the New Yorker Magazine

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2010 Camera Work, Berlin

2009 Musee d’Art Contemporain, Montreal

2008 Ogden Museum, New Orleans

 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans

2007 Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto

2006 Metropolitan Museum, New York

 Edwynn Houk, New York

 Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin

2005 Flowers East, London

 Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto

2004 Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.

 Weinstein Gallery, Minneapolis

2003 Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York

2000 Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York

1999 Weinstein Gallery, Minneapolis

 Robert Miller Gallery, New York

1997 Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris

 Robert Miller Gallery, New York

1991 Galerie Jaques Gordat, Paris

1990 Galerie Urbi et Orbi, Paris

1988 Atelier des Cannettes, Mois de la Photo, Paris

1983 Braathen Fine Arts, New York

1979 CEPA Gallery, Buffalo, New York

1975 Whitney Museum of Art-New Filmakers Program, New York

1970-75 Anthology Film Archives

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2003 Camerawork, Berlin

2001 Grant Selwyn Fine Art, Los Angeles

1999 Preview IV, Weinstein Gallery, Minneapolis

1998 Weinstein Gallery, New York

 St. Paul Companies, St. Paul

1997 Robert Miller Gallery, New York

1994 Conseil Generale de la Nievre, Nevers, France

1989 Chicago Art Institute, Chicago 1982 Braathen Fine Arts, New York

1981 P. S. 1, Long Island City, New York

1980 Braathen-Gallozzi Gallery, New York

1978 International Center of Photography, New York

1975 Bykert Gallery, New York

**AWARDS**

2008 Nominee, Prix Pictet

2000 Alfred Eisenstadt Award for Magazine Photography, Architecture

1999 Alfred Eisenstadt Award for Magazine Photography, Architecture

1998 World Press Award for Art

**COLLECTIONS**

Metropolitan Museum, New York

Museum of Modern Art, New York

L. A. County Museum of Art, Los Angeles

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Biblioteque National, Paris

Maison Europeen de la Photography, Paris

Foundacion “La Caixa,” Barcelona

The Link Group, Chicago

 First National City Bank, New York

The Santander Bank, New York

La Caisse des Depots et Consignations, Paris

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

**PUBLICATIONS**

2008 Versailles, Editions Steidl

2006 After The Flood, Editions Steidl

2005 Metropolis, Editions Steidl, Gottingen, Germany

2003 Zones of Exclusion Pripyat and Chernobyl, Editions Steidl

2001 Havana, Photographs by Robert Polidori. Editions Steidl

 Palm Springs Weekend: The Architecture and Design of a Midcentury Oasis,

 Chronicle Books, San Francisco

1999 The Levant: History and Archeology in the Eastern Mediterranean, Konemann Verlag Gesselschaft, Cologne

1998 La Libye Antique: Cities perdues de L’Empire Romaine, Editions Menges, Paris;

 Konemann Verlag Gesselschart

1997 Chateaux de la Loire. Editions Menges; Konemann Verlag Gesselschart

 Sites Greco-Romaines de la Triploitane et Cyrenaique. Editions Menges;

 Konemann Verlag Gesselschart

1991 Versailles, Editions Menges, Abbeville Press, New York; Edizione Magnus, Milano;

 Konemann Verlag Gesselschaft