

## ELGER ESSER - Photographs



Exhibition: 4 - 22 June 2007, Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm  
Private & Press View: Monday 18 June, 6 - 9 pm

**ROBILANT + VOENA**, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 38 Dover Street, London W1S 4NL  
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**Edmondo di Robilant** and **Marco Voena** are pleased to announce a solo exhibition of the celebrated German artist **ELGER ESSER** at their London gallery at 38 Dover Street. The exhibition will run for three weeks from the 4<sup>th</sup> June through the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, with a private and press view on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June. **ROBILANT+VOENA** are especially proud to present this exhibition, for despite being the subject of Museum shows abroad (eg. currently one at the Norton Museum of Art, Florida, March 24 - June 17 2007) **ELGER ESSER** has so far lacked the attention he merits in the UK and such a platform is long overdue.

**ROBILANT+VOENA** will show eight works by **ESSER** in an overview of the last seven years of his career, which will include photographs taken in France, Italy and Ireland - some of his most favoured subjects. Using a large-format camera and manipulating colour during the initial exposure as well as shifting it during printing, **ESSER** produces large scale images of minimalist and visually arresting landscapes where human activity is notably absent. Often measuring an impressive 183 x 221 cm, these lyrical images of sea, marshlands, trees and rivers, mostly with a low expansive horizon, bring to mind parallels with old master *vedute* and nineteenth century romantic landscape painting, though their muted, sombre palette and sharp flatness speak of their very contemporary concerns.

"I seek places, not to document them as such, but rather to use the encounter with them to make a picture", says **ESSER**. Despite their precise location references, works such as *Old Head of Kinsale, Ireland* (2005) and *Port Blanc* (2003) portray a haunting sense of isolation and a marked placelessness where an ethereal beauty seems to mingle with connotations of the sublime. Other works such as *Sully II* (2001) have a less abstract subjectivity which is unusually descriptive and almost painterly; however, in all of **ESSER**'s works, the encounter with the subject is pervaded by a deep and overwhelming sense of stillness which envelops the viewer in silent complexity.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1967, and raised in Italy, **ELGER ESSER** studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Düsseldorf under the hugely influential Bernd and Hilla Becher, who also taught Thomas Struth, Andreas Gursky and Candida Höfer amongst others, and has in the past ten years shown internationally to great acclaim. He lives and works in Düsseldorf. For more information, literature and images please contact the Gallery Director - Mira Dimitrova, mira@dirobilant.com, tel: 0207 409 1540.

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