



1500 Gallery | 511 w 25th St. #607, New York, NY 10001 | +1.212.255.2010 | www.1500gallery.com

Brazilian Photographer João Castilho to Exhibit at 1500 Gallery October 3-27, 2012

NEW YORK – 1500 Gallery is pleased to present *Disruption*, an exhibition of color photographs by **João Castilho**, one of the most important art photographers to emerge in Brazil over the past decade. The exhibition consists of 15 images from 2 different bodies of work (*Spice* and *Vacant Lot*) that intersect notions of fracture, collapse and disruption. These works are representative of Castilho's signature conceptual approach, one that has been described as "imaginary documentary". *Disruption* will be on view from **October 3-27, 2012**. There will be a reception for the artist at 1500 Gallery on **Wednesday, October 3, 6-8 pm**.

Vacant Lot (Lote Vago) is a series of photographs depicting the silhouettes of unemployed men hanging around a vacant lot on the outskirts of Bamako, Mali. The subjects disrupt space and time in search of a way to defeat the boredom and emptiness that make up their lives. The subjects are directed by the photographer and are pictured in front of a wall. The way they were photographed nullifies any possibility of recognition. They are subjects without identity, and therefore, with no story.

The series *Spice (Tempero)* depicts interventions with spices (paprika and saffron) in Bolivia's Uyuni Salt Flats. There is an interplay between materials: salt, pepper and saffron. But also with art history, as the work makes reference to land art (interventions in landscape) and painting (the activation of empty, white space by the introduction of pictorial elements, red and yellow). The interference color on white ends up creating a certain discontinuity in the landscape and disruption of order.

There will also be the launch of the book *Scopic Drive (Pulsão Escópica)*. Scopic drive is a concept that was addressed by psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, despite not having been explicitly identified by him as such. Jacques Lacan is responsible for coining the term itself, in view of discussing the notion of "satisfaction" inherent to the act of looking. From this psychoanalytic concept, Castilho created a series of photographs. The images of this essay, generated by webcams and captured directly from Castilho's computer screen, discuss scenes of voyeurism and exhibitionism.

About João Castilho

João Castilho is one of the most important art photographers to emerge in Brazil over the past decade. His work is one of the major pillars of what has been called "Imaginary Documentary," but is not limited to this style. In his most recent



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bodies of work, Castilho has borrowed concepts from Land Art (*Spice, Threads*) and has also experimented with video and installation works (*Between Rivers, Earthquake, Sudden Death*). Some of his works are connected to literature (*Whirlwind, Metamorphosis, Dead Weight*). Another important feature of Castilho's work is his very particular use of colour (*Marie Jeanne, Vacant Plot, Hotel Tropical, Underwater Landscape*).

Castilho and his work have been recognized by all of the main Brazilian art photography prizes including the Marc Ferrez Photography Award (2010), the Conrado Wessel Foundation Photography Prize (2008) and the Porto Seguro Photography Prize (2005). Castilho has received grants from the National Foundation of Arts (2008); the Pernambuco Fine Arts Salon (2008); and the Pampulha Museum of Art (2005). His work is present in several public collections including: Musée d'Art Modern et d'Art Contemporain de Liège (Belgium), Noorderlicht Gallery (The Netherlands), Museum of Modern Art of Sao Paulo (Brazil), Sao Paulo Museum of Art (Brazil), Pampulha Museum of Art (Brazil), and the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia (Brazil), among others. He graduated in 2010 with an MA in Visual Arts from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

About 1500 Gallery

1500 Gallery is located in New York City's West Chelsea gallery district and specializes in Brazilian photography – the first gallery in the world with this explicit focus. 1500 represents several of the most recognized Brazilian art photographers, both emerging and established, with works present in major collections in Brazil and worldwide. 8 of 1500's photographers are present in the Sao Paulo Museum of Art's collection of photography. 1500 was founded in 2010 by Alexandre Bueno de Moraes and Andrew S. Klug. For more information, visit 1500gallery.com

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