

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JIM COOKE
RE-PLACING ARCADIA
JANUARY 25 - MARCH 16, 2002

PROJECT GALLERY: WILLIAM EGGLESTON
GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY - SATURDAY, 10-6

The Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present "Re-placing Arcadia", an exhibition of large-scale color photographs by British artist Jim Cooke. In this series, Cooke explores the integration of culture and nature and the layering of history in the contemporary Europe landscape with its compression of the agrarian, medieval, industrial and post-industrial. Cooke's work posits that everything can be construed as nature, and that the natural and man-made are equally beautiful.

Made with an 8x 10 inch view camera, the epic quality of these views relate to the mid-19th century photographs of American wilderness by Eadweard Muybridge and Carleton Watkins. For Cooke, however, "arcadia" exists equally in a dam looming over a frozen lake, a curving motorway hugging a rocky outcropping or the vast Rio Tinto mine in Spain. Captured against the slow drift of history, Cooke's landscapes stand as silent witnesses to change, powerful and transfixed in time. As described by David Chandler in Portfolio magazine: "This is the story of an old rustic arcadia reshaped by industrialization whose monumental structures then themselves fall into ruin, to be replaced by the endless modular systems and soaring towers that technology makes possible. This sense of unfolding epic sagas, each with its own claim on the sublime, is the underlying theme of Cooke's work."

This is Jim Cooke's first solo exhibition in the U.S. and the third in our series of debut U.S. exhibitions by contemporary British photographers. Born in the industrial region of Coventry, England, Cooke lives and teaches at the University of Brighton. In 2001, he was featured in a show of 20th century landscape photography at the Victoria & Albert Museum and in a one-man show at the Zelda Cheatle Gallery, London.

For further information or press visuals, please contact the gallery at 646-230-9610.

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