

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Esko Männikkö**  
**Selections from *Far North* and *Southern Comfort***  
 October 27 – December 23, 2011



The Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present a selection of photographs by Finnish photographer Esko Männikkö, the gallery's fourth exhibition of the artist's work. The selection is drawn from *Far North*, an early series of portraits of Finnish bachelors and their environments, and *Southern Comfort*, a series of interiors filled with discarded objects and furniture. Collectively, these objects and spaces emanate a sense of history destabilized by an ironic haphazardness.

Männikkö's photographs mingle in an installation of portraits and still lifes suggesting a narrative about life in a rural setting. He regularly places his photographs in old found frames carefully selected to complement the details or subjects of his images. As he described his 2006 exhibition at the gallery, "My installations are like a village, composed of people, animals, buildings, still lives – all together."

Recognized as "Young Artist of the Year" in Finland in 1995, Männikkö first gained international prominence with *Far North*, his portraits of isolated Finnish bachelors who epitomized a kind of loneliness and self-reliance. In 1996, he was awarded an ArtPace international artist residency in San Antonio, Texas, where he photographed the residents of two small Mexican American communities on the border of South Texas, resulting in his acclaimed series, *Mexas*. An ongoing series, *Organized Freedom*, focuses on abandoned houses resulting from rural depopulation throughout northern Finland.

Esko Männikkö has exhibited internationally at the Venice Biennale, the Sao Paolo Biennial, the Yokohama Museum of Art, the Shanghai Museum of Art and the Tate Liverpool. His work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Foundation Cartier, the Moderna Museet and the Malmö Art Museum, among others. He has been the subject of mid-career retrospectives at the Kursaal Art Museum, San Sebastian, Spain and Millesgården Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden. He has published three books including *The Female Pike*, which was selected for two compendiums of the most important books in the history of photography.

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