

## Catalina Niculescu with Alex Hartley

August 4 – 8, 2010

The Garage, 1 North Terrace, Alexander Square, London SW3 2BA

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LIANGWEST, with the generous support of the Brompton Design District, is pleased to present new work by artist Catalina Niculescu along with *Eames House* and *Case Study #21* by Alex Hartley.

This exhibition explores the shared fascination of two artists with the utopian ideals present in modernist architecture. The joint impetus of modernist structures and ideals is where the similarities in Catalina Niculescu and Alex Hartley's work end. Their formally different works result in a moment that is both succinct and in conflict with itself.

Catalina's work will directly respond to the obscure exhibition space, continuing the performative concern in her practice and looking at the space in relation to the human scale. During a recent residency in Marseille, Catalina started production of a new body of work, taking inspiration from *Cité Radieuse* (1952) of Le Corbusier's *Unité d'Habitation*. Using the exhibition space as both inspiration and material, the work will comprise of slide projection, posters and sculptural adjuncts. Having seen strong references to Le Corbusier and other modernist masters in previous work, Niculescu boldly embraces the utopian ideals at the heart of modernist practice while at the same time acknowledging its shortcomings and impossibilities.

Stemming from the research done for the book project *LA Climbs*, *Eames House* and *Case Study #21* come from Alex Hartley's intrigue into the idea of privacy and invasion, particularly in the context of a city such as LA. The majority of modernist private houses like the Eames House were built on the idea of minimal division between man and nature, bringing nature inside by dissolving the division between the interior and exterior, resulting in the need for the boundaries that provide privacy and security to be extended far away from the house. The idea of transgressing onto private land and even the physical interaction with the architecture itself continues Hartley's exploration of the negotiation between the built and natural environments and his investigation of the presentation and perception of modern architecture.

The quest to reconcile the human body with architecture, and the built environment with the natural environment lies in the heart of modernist ideology, which continues to affect our perception of architecture. In the shared context of this particular ideology, this exhibition looks to challenge and question our intellectual relationship with architecture and our physical experience with the built environment.

Born 1978 in Bucharest, Romania, **Catalina Niculescu** currently lives and works in London. This is LIANGWEST's second show with Catalina Niculescu. Her *Cité Radieuse Episode 1~4* (2010) will be screened at Milton Keynes Gallery on 18 August 2010.

Born 1963 in West Byfleet, **Alex Hartley** currently lives and works in London and Devon. Alex Hartley is represented in London by Victoria Miro Gallery.



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List of work

### **Catalina Niculescu**

*Flexible Landscape 2*

slide projection

2010

*Almost International (Style)*

mixed media

2010

*Cité Radieuse Episode 1*

poster, edition of 10

2010

*Cité Radieuse Episode 2*

poster, edition of 10

2010

*Cité Radieuse Episode 3*

poster, edition of 10

2010

*Cité Radieuse Episode 4*

poster, edition of 10

2010

### **Alex Hartley**

*Case Study #21*

C-type print

2003

*Eames House*

C-type print

2003