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PRESS RELEASE



PAUL GRAHAM *AMERICAN NIGHT* 15 OCTOBER – 15 NOVEMBER
2003

‘Graham’s *American Night* seems to suggest that maybe only in the complete darkness or in the blinding light are we truly able to see’ ¹

These photographs touch upon the social fracture of America – the great divide – between included and excluded, black and white, have and have-not. *American Night* embraces this neglected territory in a series of powerful images which lodge firmly in our consciousness as they negotiate the boundaries of art and document.

At the heart of this work are deliberately over-exposed photographs of the American landscape which evoke the feeling of stepping out of a sheltered place into bright sunlight, temporarily blinding the viewer with an overwhelming whiteness. Drained of colour, shadow and form, they resonate with the lives of the small figures they are centred upon, walking, carrying, waiting and wandering in the bleached landscape. This enveloping whiteness is broken by a series of dark street portraits, which brings the claustrophobic intensity of the inner city to the work, before being enveloped once again by this narrative of light. These works were made between 1998 and 2002 in many locations across America, including Los Angeles, Memphis, Detroit, New York and Atlanta.

Paul Graham was born in England and currently lives in New York. His work has been exhibited extensively, including at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Tate Gallery, London. Previously published books include *Troubled Land*, *New Europe*, *Empty Heaven* and *End of an Age*.

A major exhibition of *American Night* is being held at PS1 (MOMA) New York from 12 October 2003 until 29 December. These shows co-incide with the release of an extraordinary new book on this series published by Steidl/Mack:

Paul Graham *American Night* | Edited by Michael Mack, design by Paul Graham and Michael Mack
136 Pages with 63 colour plates | 15 x 11.5 in / 38 x 29 cm | Clothbound hardcover | \$65/£40/€65 |
ISBN 3-88243-919-X

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT JANE BHOYROO AT THE GALLERY

| ¹Pablo Lafuente, *Art Review*, October 2003 |