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PRESS RELEASE

A Handful of Dust

24 January – 24 February 2006

THE ATLAS GROUP IN COLLABORATION WITH MARWAN HANNA, DAVID AUSTEN, RICHARD BILLINGHAM, IAN BREAKWELL, TONY CARTER, PETER GALLO, LEON GOLUB, PAUL GRAHAM, CISCO JIMÉNEZ, MIKE KELLEY, PETER LORENS MOL, ALAIN MILLER, LUCIA NOGUEIRA, NICOLE QUAID, MAX SCHUMANN, SEAN SMITH, NANCY SPERO, AMIKAM TOREN, KEITH TYSON, MARK WALLINGER

It's often how it is: doing one thing, thinking another, unfocussed in a jumbled, easy kind of way when something jumps suddenly in through one or other of the senses and everything changes. This time, sitting in an aeroplane, somewhere between Miami and Mexico, idly opening the copy of the Guardian newspaper wedged forgotten in the side pocket of a bag since Heathrow, an image across the centre spread slaps you round the face: Captives and captors, in an undefined desert landscape; Iraq of course but somewhere else too, between the Bible and Star Wars; a magnificent dignity in humiliation and vulnerability in power; composition and posture as significant as the grandest from the Grand Salon. No time, no topography, no crime no hagiography, just a powerful allegory for the confusion of humanity, then and now and then again.

This great photograph by Sean Smith, here presented just as it first presented itself, is the inspiration of this small exhibition. War, heat, sand, water, rubbish, barriers, tears, prayer, sacrifice, dogma, resignation, anarchy, hope… A little bit of all of these, and a hint perhaps of so much more (pity we couldn't borrow the Breughel).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT COSTANZA MAZZONIS AT THE GALLERY