

ERNESTO NETO PRESS RELEASE
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ERNESTO NETO

the silent cliff: the gate, the house, the garden, the people

March 22 to April 19, 2003

opening reception: Saturday, March 22, 6-8 pm

The gallery is extremely pleased to announce its fourth solo exhibition with Ernesto Neto, an ambitious exploration of form, material, scale and physical interaction entitled 'The silent cliff: the gate, the house, the garden, the people.' Opening March 22, Neto constructs an elaborate sequence of sculptural environments with each room functioning as a spatial metaphor: entrance, architectural structure, landscape, and the figure. Presenting sculpture as sensual experience, Neto positions the visitor as a sensitive organism moving through a universe of his construction. Representing a dramatic departure from the surreal Utopian vision of transparency and sensuality that Neto has put forth in previous installations, Neto presents a new environment carved with a brutality and opacity.

The work is a trip, the road is an odyssey- what basis can we use now to construct the ideal world. We are only now even more aware than ever, at the new millenium how far we are from a better civilization.

The drawing is a road, cut by the artist with a blade...

The transparency – dreamlike environment has moved to the movmen construction/production, division of the body... the delicate and elegant... had become brutal...

Tension and equilibrium still effect – skin surface still essential, but the result is more fixed... the result, or trace or mark of the moment of cut

---- a sequence of moments, searched for the utopian – sympathy of community and natrue more sensuality and feminine – less perverse and fake
see with eyes closed

the cut is done, committed, no turning back – equation of mathematics and hisotr

Each of the sculptural environments in the exhibition has been constructed through a process of individually carved foam elements. These elements are joined to form architectural stuctures within the respective gallery space. The visitor moves through these structures, first confronting and then entering a pavilion-like gate structure. The visitor is then led into an environment that Neto has entirely enclosed - 'the living space' or house. Visitors walk and crawl upon this architecturally abstract construction. The main gallery space shifts in reference to the landscape wherein the visitor is introduced to a manicured garden-like maze of solid foam. Finally, in the rear gallery, Neto presents several figurative elements, the so-called inhabitants of this constructed world.

Ernesto Neto's recent solo exhibitions include MCA, Sydney; Aarhus Art Museum, Denmark; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, among numerous others. Later this year, Neto will have a solo exhibition at MoCA, LA and the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia.

Please do not hesitate to contact the gallery for anything further.