

*Esther Schipper*

THOMAS DEMAND  
MODEL STUDIES  
SEPTEMBER 07 – OCTOBER 20, 2012

Esther Schipper is pleased to present *Model Studies*, the fourth solo exhibition by Thomas Demand at the gallery.

*Model Studies* is a new series of works that Demand developed during his residency at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. The extensive archive of the Institute includes the estate of the American architect John Lautner (1911-1994), whose architectural models provide the starting point for Demand's series.

*Model Studies* comprises a total of 32 photographs from which a selection of individual images, as well as groups of two, three and of four, will be presented. Lautner's study models, which the architect used as visual aids, provide Demand with a representational basis, but can only be perceived in details of materials and shapes. Instead, the close-ups of cardboard, tar paper and foam-core panels open up photographic potential for abstraction with a nod to a modernist formal vocabulary, reflecting the link between Cubism and American art of the post-war period. At the same time, the series forms part of Demand's ongoing research into the construction of spaces and architecture, updating Lautner's visionary and often called fictional ideas.

*Model Studies* was shown earlier this year in Nottingham (Nottingham Contemporary), accompanied by a catalogue of the same name. Currently, the series can be viewed in the International Pavilion of the Venice Biennale of Architecture. In January 2013, the works will be presented in the Graham Foundation, Chicago.

Thomas Demand lives and works in Berlin and Los Angeles. Born in Munich in 1964, he studied from 1987-89 at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, from 1989 to 1992 at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and from 1993 to 1994 at Goldsmiths' College, London (M.A.) His work has been shown in many solo exhibitions, including at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2005), the Serpentine Gallery, London (2006), the Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg (2008), the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2009-2010), the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2010) and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2012).

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