

# Thomas Erben Gallery

Press Release



*Self Portrait*, 1975. Gelatin silver print, edition of 10 (+3 AP), 16 x 24 in.

## **Pablo Bartholomew**

### *Outside In*

May 15 – June 20, 2015

Opening reception: **Friday, May 15, 6-8:30 pm**

Artist-led exhibition walkthrough Saturday May 16, 3 pm

Thomas Erben is pleased to present the gallery's first solo exhibition with photographer **Pablo Bartholomew** (b. 1955, New Delhi). *Outside In* is a selection of photographs taken throughout the 1970s in three cities: Bombay, New Delhi and Calcutta. This body of work stems from the very beginning of the artist's career, when he – expelled from high school – immersed himself in a youthful subculture testing the boundaries of an insulated socialist society steeped in tradition.

The images in *Outside In* are immediately recognizable as part of a certain documentary tradition – Larry Clark and Nan Goldin come to mind – where a marginalized group is seen, candidly and uncompromisingly, through the eye of an insider. Scenes with people dancing, resting, posing, or just hanging out smoking pot, mix with atmospherically empty vistas, all in starkly contrasted black and white. Turbulence mingles with lethargy, grime with transcendent light. The immediacy of the situations depicted is reflected in the raw and grainy materiality of the prints themselves, with the photographer pushing his medium towards its limits.

Continued...

Thomas Erben Gallery  
526 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
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Bartholomew's background – his father, Richard Bartholomew, was an art critic and photographer, and his mother, Rati, an English professor and theater activist – exposed him to a cosmopolitan culture combining Indian and Western modernisms. This accounts for the visual modernity of the photographs, which transcends their documentary nature. While teaching himself photography, Bartholomew used his camera to create a unique document of counterculture, not only revealing a world hidden in the margins, but also sharing his own process of self-making. The presence and charge of the images is largely due to the fact that we are seeing his lived reality; he is as much a part of the work as he is its author.

Pablo Bartholomew is an internationally renowned photographer, whose images have appeared in publications such as **The New York Times**, **Newsweek**, **Time**, **National Geographic** and **GEO**. In 1975 he received his first **World Press Photo** award for a series on morphine addicts, and in 1984 his work on the Bhopal gas tragedy won him the **World Press Photo of the Year**. *Outside In* was first exhibited at **Les Rencontres de la Photographie**, Arles in 2007, and has since been shown widely internationally. Bartholomew received the Indian government's **Padma Shri Award** in 2013, and was bestowed the **Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** on behalf of the French Republic in 2014. The artist lives and works in New Delhi.

The exhibition will be on view May 15 – June 20. Thomas Erben Gallery is located at 526 West 26th Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm. For more information, please contact us at 212-645-8701 or [info@thomaserben.com](mailto:info@thomaserben.com).

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