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BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

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Pictures of Magazines 2

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by Ben Brown Fine Arts
Location: Ben Brown Fine Arts
Artist(s): Vik MUNIZ
Date: 21 Nov 2012 - 8 Feb 2013

Ben Brown Fine Arts, Hong Kong, is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Asia of works by the internationally celebrated Brazilian photographer **Vik Muniz**. This exhibition will feature photographs from his recent *Pictures of Magazines 2* series, in which the artist has carefully culled and torn pieces of paper from art, fashion and news magazines; amalgamated them into re-creations of iconic and historically significant paintings; and then photographed and magnified the images, resulting in evocative, exquisitely-detailed and entirely unique works of art. Muniz is renowned for his ingenious and laborious employment of unusual materials - dust, sugar, chocolate, diamonds, caviar, toys, paper hole-punches, junk, dry pigment - to reconstruct images, often art historically related, that tap into the spectator's subconscious visual repository and beg for further investigation. Muniz's elaborate material creations - in this case the magazine collages - are ephemeral; it is his masterly photographic documentation that is the final work of art, which is intentionally many steps removed from the original image that inspired it.

The exhibition features strikingly bold large-scale colour photographs based on visually resonant paintings by artists such as Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, Paul Cézanne, Edward Hopper, Edouard Manet and George Stubbs. Muniz simulates the brushstrokes of these paintings with scraps of magazine paper carefully selected not only for their corresponding colour values but also their imagery - faces, body parts, text, advertisements - that collaged together suggest a tactile, impastoed surface. It is not just the final appropriated image that invites perusal, it is the minute components of the image - the bits of paper - that provide the irony, double meanings and visual associations for which Muniz is so well known. Highlights of the exhibition include optically rich renditions of Manet's *Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, Annibale Carracci's *The Butcher Shop*, Hopper's *Summer in the City* and Mary Cassatt's *Picking Flowers in a Field*.

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