

## Paradise Row

Paradise Row, Dusseldorf presents *Poor Monuments*, a new body of work by Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin.

*Poor Monuments*, a series of 85 works on paper, is a contemporary re-working of *The War Primer*, a book published in 1955 by Bertolt Brecht.

### Presstext

The *War Primer* comprises of newspaper clippings, each accompanied by a four-line poem. The title of the book deliberately recalls the textbooks that used to teach elementary school children how to read; Brecht's book is a practical manual into how to 'read' photographs.

Adam Broomberg  
&  
Oliver Chanarin

For each of the 85 images that Brecht originally chose, Broomberg and Chanarin have found an equivalent image from our present age. Whereas Brecht's *War primer* was concerned with images of the Second World War, Broomberg and Chanarin are concerned with the so-called "War on Terror".

### Poor Monuments

9/11/2011 – 04/02/2012

*"Don't start with the good old things but the bad new ones"* Brecht famously said, and in this spirit Broomberg and Chanarin have gathered their material from the internet - compressed, uploaded, ripped, squeezed, reformatted and re-edited often anonymous images - rather than sifting through newspapers with a pair of scissors.

Opening:  
Wednesday 9 November  
7.00 – 10.00 pm

In each work a red rectangle overlays the pages of Brecht's original book, representing the contemporary image Broomberg and Chanarin have selected. Whilst the selected image is not pictured, the title of each individual work describes the source image and supplies the web address at which it can be found.

This device acts to frustrate the instant, spectacular nature of the images of war that form an integral part of our contemporary visual landscape. It also highlights the web of economic relations that surround the production and distribution of images in our time.

In the interrogative spirit of Brecht, *Poor Monuments* both questions what has remained the same and what has changed, in terms of the production, distribution and consumption of images of war.

Paradise Row pop-up-space  
c/o Felix Ringel Galerie  
Eiskellerberg 1  
Gegenuber der Kunstakademie  
D-40213 Dusseldorf

Made in collaboration with the Brecht Archive in Berlin, the work is presented as a series of framed, wall hung, works.

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