**IRENE CAESAR: A NEW HISTORY OF IDEAS IN PICTURES**

ABSURD PERFORMANCES DOCUMENTED BY PHOTOGRAPHY

Orensanz Art Gallery (Angel Orensanz Foundation)

172 Norfolk St., NY, NY 10002

Nov. 6-27, M-Fr 10-6, Sat-Sun by appointment

Reception Nov. 6, 6-10

<http://www.orensanz.org>

<http://www.irenecaesar.com>

 “I only do staged photography, even if I shoot on

location. I believe that reality is a creation of

collective and individual consciousness, and the

two-dimensional ready-mades of everyday existen-

ce are simply a thin illusory surface hiding the

reality where people truly dwell.

My goal is to create images of performances

that make people live in front of the camera in a

more intense way than how they live in their eve-

ryday lives. In this sense, my staged photography

is a counter-staged photography. And that is why

my images are not simply movie stills, which are

the artificial and mannerist cuts from externali-

zed action. I define my style as theatre of absurd

documented by photographic means.

The project “A New History of Ideas in Pictures”

includes works done in the studio in the form of

absurd performances. Each image is a part of a

set of images (usually 3 to 5), which represents

the entire continuous performance. The overall

objective of the project is to evaluate the major

concepts of human civilization, like human nature,

the origin of man, universal good and evil, the

Divine Father and the Divine Mother, the sacred

and the profane, the sublime and the bestial, race,

gender and its ambiguities, ego and alter-ego,

fetish, super-hero, objectification of women,

modes of mass consciousness like modes of seria-

lity and patriarchal domination, modes of inferio-

rity and suffering, and the attitudes towards death.”

- Irene Caesar

Prints are on loan from Dr. Norton T. Dodge,

President of the Cremona Foundation and donor,

along with wife Nancy, of the Dodge Collection

of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union to

the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers, the State

University of New Jersey.

Over the years, The Angel Orensanz Founda-

tion (established in 1992) welcomed Cindy

Sherman, Philip Glass, Spike Lee, Arthur

Miller, Alexander McQueen, Salman Rushdie,

Maya Angelou, Alexander Borovsky, Elie

Wiesel and Chuck Close among many others.

The Foundation cooperates with PS1/MoMa,

The Goethe Institute and The Whitney Muse-

um, The Italian Cultural Institute, New York

University, Columbia University and Prince-

ton University, The National Russian Muse-

um of St. Petersburg and The Royal Shake-

speare Co. of London,The World Council of

Peoples at the UN,The United Jewish Coun-

cil and The American Academy in Rome.

The Foundation publishes a quarterly maga-

zine Artscape, and a weekly TV program on

MNN.