

Anthony Goicolea

RELATED

Dates: March 20 – April 26, 2008

Private view: March 19, 6 – 9 p.m.

Location: ScheiblerMitte, Charlottenstr. 2 (in the alley)

Related is an installation of new sculpture, drawings and photos by the American artist Anthony Goicolea that features a series of portraits based on old photographs of Goicolea family members who have lived or remained in Cuba, his family's place of origin. For the sculptural component, the artist has re-created telephone poles on a smaller scale, which transmit in form, light and sound the artist's interest in connection and communication across vast distances of space and time.



Anthony Goicolea, **Related 9b**, 2008
B&W digital print, 50,8 x 66 cm /
20 x 26 in., Edition of 9

As a first generation Cuban-American, Anthony Goicolea is interested in the idea of displacement, identity, and family history and customs. Many first generation immigrants feel a sense of dislocation. Customs and family tradition keep them linked to a mythical homeland despite a tendency to assimilate into their surroundings, which only serves to isolate and estrange them, thereby heightening a sense of alienation.

For *Related*, Goicolea has executed portraits of unfamiliar or unknown family members with great skill and sensitivity, which he then mounted and photographed on trees, telephone poles, the surfaces of old buildings. Thus a reinterpreted, second-generation reproduction of their likeness is created that furthers the notion of regeneration and self-referential representation. In their newly contextualized environments, the portraits take on the appearance of missing persons ads or wanted posters while memorializing past relatives that have had an indirect effect on his life.

While his earlier work exuded a playful narcissism, this new body of work is marked by an earnest, almost wistful search for roots or connections to his past, reflected in the photographs' symbolic settings. Here, as in his multiple self-portraits, Goicolea is exploring his identity; only this time he approaches it from an acute awareness of an individual's uniqueness.

Anthony Goicolea was born in Atlanta in 1971 and lives and works in New York City. He has recently participated in exhibitions at the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt am Main (*Die Jugend von heute*, 2007) and at Haus am Waldsee in Berlin (*Norbert Bisky – Ich war es nicht*, 2007). In 2005 he received the BMW Photo Paris Award.