

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Olivo Barbieri
*Site Specific***

March 30 – May 13, 2006

Reception for the artist: Thursday March 30, 6-8 pm



The gallery is pleased to present the US debut solo exhibition of Italian photographer Olivo Barbieri. Drawn from Barbieri's *Site Specific* series, a multiyear global investigation into the nature of cities, the show includes large-scale aerial views made in Rome in 2004 and Las Vegas in 2005. Barbieri's photographs of spectacular architectural creations, both ancient and modern, explore notions of scale, idealism, and ambition and redefine our understanding of otherwise familiar urban spaces. Barbieri describes *Site Specific* as "The world as a temporary site-specific installation... the foundation of our sense of belonging and our identity, seen from afar, as a great scale model: the city as an avatar of itself."

Photographing from a helicopter 300 to 500 feet above ground with a large -format camera and a tilt-focus lens, Barbieri reduces the epic to the miniature and grand structures meant to celebrate cities and endure time appear miniature and toy-like. The total *Site Specific* series encompasses Montreal, Jordan, Los Angeles, Turin and Shanghai.

In addition to his still photographs, Barbieri has produced short 35mm films of Rome, Las Vegas and Shanghai. The Rome and Las Vegas films were featured in the 2005 Toronto Film Festival and the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. All three films will be shown in The Bloomberg Space, London in April 2006. The film *Site Specific_Las Vegas* will make its New York City debut March 10th at the opening of the new Sara Meltzer Gallery, 531 West 26th Street.

A participant in the 1993, 1995 and 1997 Venice Biennales, Barbieri has exhibited internationally at institutions including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the Fotomuseum Winterthur, the International Center of Photography, New York and the Canadian Center for Architecture, Toronto.

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