

PRESS RELEASE

ISHMAEL RANDALL WEEKS

2 OCTOBER – 13 NOVEMBER 2010
OPENING FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER, 6.00 9.00 PM

FEDERICA SCHIAVO GALLERY
PIAZZA MONTEVECCHIO 16 ROME

Federica Schiavo Gallery is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition in Europe by Ishmael Randall Weeks.

For the three room site-specific installation at the gallery the artist plans on using the distinct spaces to extend his exploration of spatial concepts and quotidian perspectives integrating thoughts on landscape, architecture, roof design and erosion as a way of entering a formal, conceptual and visual dialogue centered on and around fragility and structure.

The foundation of Randall Weeks' work is the alteration of found and recycled materials and environmental debris, often on site, and includes such source materials as empty tins, books and printed matter, bicycles, boat parts, and building fragments, repurposing humble objects to create site-specific installations, sculptures, and works on paper that probe issues of urbanization, development, travel, mobility, and exchange in a globalized world. His sculptures often take the form of conveyances, such as carts, cranes, carriages, as well as chariots, altered maps, and precarious structures, alluding to the artist's own migrations: Randall Weeks has spent the past four years living between Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, and New York.

By creating works that take the visual form of functional objects while stripping them of their productivity, the artist addresses notions of labor and utility, forcing an examination of our understanding of culturally specific forms. Further, his use of abandoned objects and detritus as sculptural material forces an acknowledgement of the constituent elements, simultaneously exploiting and adapting their particular codes and associations.

Ishmael Randall Weeks was born in Cuzco, Peru in 1976. He divides his time between New York City and Lima. Randall Weeks studied at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, where he received his BA, and later at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, in Maine. Starting in 2000, he has had solo exhibitions in New York, Mexico, Bolivia, and Peru and he has also been included in numerous international group exhibitions including the 10th Havana Bienal, 2009, as well as the 9th Cuenca Bienal, 2007. His Work is currently on view as part of "Greater New York" at MOMA PS1. He has received fellowships, residencies, and awards from a range of institutions, including the Foundation for Contemporary Art, New York, 2005; The Art Matters Foundation, New York, 2008; Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation, New York, 2009; the Vermont Studio Art Center, Johnson, Vermont, 2003; Sculpture Space, New York, 2008; Kiosko Art Residency, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 2008; and La Curtiduria art center in Oaxaca, Mexico, 2009, among others.