

**MAGASIN 3**  
STOCKHOLM KONSTHALL

**PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA** SEPTEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 12 2004

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Founded 1987 Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall is one of the leading institutions of contemporary art in Sweden. Since the start Magasin 3 has become recognized for major exhibitions presenting works by internationally established artists. Magasin 3 is also a collecting institution. The aim is to actively participate in contemporary culture by introducing and presenting artists and supporting artistic work. Through close collaboration with artists and institutions Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall is constantly in progress. We view our exhibition program as a compliment and a challenge to other institutions.

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Opening hours: Thur 12–7 pm, Fri–Sun 12 – 5 pm

**PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA**  
A STORYBOOK LIFE

September 18 – December 12, 2004

English

## PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA

\*1953, lives and works in New York

Philip-Lorca diCorcia's photography blends traditional documentary photography with fiction, cinema and advertising photography. The exhibition at Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall features three series, where the oldest work dates back to 1975, and the newest is from 2000.

The exhibition consists primarily of *A Storybook Life*, 76 photos from 1975-1999. Through the lens of his camera, diCorcia has portrayed the American suburbs – a world of TV, cigarettes and lawnmowers. The photos in the series give the impression of being spontaneous documentary shots of his family and friends, but are in fact meticulously staged. The details are scrupulously arranged and add to the specific atmosphere diCorcia intends to convey with each separate photograph. The person in the picture rarely meets the viewer's eye, giving a voyeuristic sensation. The succession of images is compact, like scenes from a film, or pages from a book. diCorcia himself compares the composition of his narratives with the workings of memory: "overlapped in ways that are not rational".

*Two Hours* (1999) consists of eleven pictures shot from the same vantage point in a street in Havana, Cuba, where diCorcia lets the surroundings form a backdrop to the action during two hours. Glances exchanged between people and the atmosphere of the place are central elements. The people are portrayed up close, giving the viewer a feeling of being there and almost colliding with the person ahead. The street pulse and the flow of the crowd is further enhanced when all the pictures are lined up next to one another.

Several works are from one of diCorcia's most famous series, *Heads* (2000). This series can be seen as an elaboration on *Streetwork*, diCorcia's photographs from street life in eight large American, European and Asian cities in 1996-98. However, whereas *Streetwork* captured everyday scenes with the city as the setting, he has toned down the impact of the surroundings in *Heads*, focusing for a moment on the anonymous individual in the crowd. From a scaffolding near Times Square in New York, diCorcia arranged lighting to be aimed at individual passers-by or small groups of people, who were unaware of his presence. The background and surroundings are blotted out, while the individuals themselves stand out. They are captured in a private moment, in their own world, as the city pulse and bustle is filtered away. This combination of spontaneity and arrangement resulted in overwhelmingly simple and direct images.

Last spring, diCorcia participated in the exhibition *Fashioning Fiction in Photography since 1990* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He will also be featured at the *Fashionation* exhibition, opening at Moderna Museet on September 25, 2004. *A Storybook Life* was produced jointly by Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, and Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, in cooperation with Centre national de la photographie, Paris, Folkwang Museum, Essen, Centro de Arte de Salamanca and Centro de Artes Visuais, Coimbra.