

Press Release

Per BARCLAY

Insisto

Exhibition from September 16th to 31st October, 2014
Opening on Tuesday September 16th at 6pm in the presence of the artist

Galerie Guy Bärtschi is pleased to present the Norwegian, Oslo-born artist, **Per Barclay**, presently living in Turin. The exhibition will include recent pictures taken in different parts of the world based on the theme of fluids.

Fluids are a recurring theme in the artist's work since 1989 when he started producing "oil's rooms". In these works, the artist covers ground space with sump oil, a preferred material which he sometimes replaces with wine, blood, water or milk depending on the symbolism he seeks to create.

In his new exhibition, **Per Barclay** has chosen to show works featuring very different atmospheres: a chapel in Chinon, a Baroque palace in Palermo, a 1930's monumental building in Paris or a magnificent landscape of a drying fish installation in Lofoten, Norway. In each of these works however, there is a common denominator; the absence of human presence. Sometimes the beauty of these spaces lies in their abandonment. In the artist's large scale photographs, the magnified space plunges the viewer into an awe inspiring atmosphere of silence creating an acute awareness of the scale of the space which can be either imposing or confined. The silence and immobility are but superficial, there is an unconscious communication between the spaces creating bonds that escape conscious perception. The architecture and its surroundings separate in the reflection in the liquid, producing a mirror effect which sometimes appears black and empty, reflecting invisibility and fixing a moment in time as in a photograph which catches the viewer off guard.

In **Per Barclays'** photographs light is multiplied, ceilings becomes floors, the outside appears on the inside. Details and features normally invisible to the eye are revealed. The notion of fluid in these works alludes to the passing of life and the bonds that tie things together, allowing the indiscernible to become concrete thus enabling the photograph to communicate fully with the viewer.