

# Victoria Miro Gallery

## Press Release

### **Isaac Julien – After Mazatlan**

11 September to 29 September 2000

The Victoria Miro Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by Isaac Julien which were made in collaboration with Hare and Hound Press during Julien's recent residency at ArtPace in Texas. His film installation, *The Long Road to Mazatlan* - another collaboration with acclaimed dancer and choreographer Javier de Frutos, was commissioned by ArtPace and Grand Arts Kansas City and the photographs - *After Mazatlan*, quote directly from the same visual sources. Both draw on the mythologies of the frontier culture of the American West and in particular, the loaded iconographies of the Cowboy, here imbued with a homoerotic quality redolent of Andy Warhol's *Lonesome Cowboys*, while also referencing the work of Martin Scorsese and David Hockney and continuing, as with Julien's earlier film work, to subvert preconceptions of race and sexuality.

There are opportunities to see Julien's three screen installation of *The Long Road to Mazatlan*, concurrent with our exhibition, first at the Cornerhouse Museum in Manchester until 17 September and subsequently at the South London Art Gallery from 21 September to 20 October. Both these exhibitions have been produced with Film and Video Umbrella. Further opportunities to see Julien's work this autumn include the first survey show of his work curated by Amada Cruz and opening at Bard Curatorial College in upstate New York on 24 September and travelling to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney (during Mardi Gras), the Bildmuseet Sweden and the Henie Onstad Museum Norway, as well as other solo shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, curated by Sylvia Chivaranond and the Studio Museum Harlem, curated by Thelma Golden.

Isaac Julien came to prominence in the film world with his 1989 drama-documentary *Looking for Langston* - a poetic exploration of Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance which gained him a cult following. This following was expanded in 1991 when his film *Young Soul Rebels* won the Semaine de la Critique prize for best film at the Cannes Film Festival. While he has continued to receive commissions from Channel 4 and BBC2, Julien has more recently also been invited to make new work specifically for a museum and gallery context and this has been exhibited in venues such as the ICA London, the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, the Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva, the Johannesburg Biennale etc. Julien is also a cultural theorist and writer and has been a guest professor at Harvard University for the past three years. A monograph on his work including many of his collected writings in addition to texts on his own work by David Deitcher and David Frankel will also be published by Bard in late September.

With special thanks to Linda Pace, Lawrence Miller and Alex Gray at ArtPace, San Antonio; Janet Flohr at Hare and Hound Press, San Antonio and Sean Kelly and Margaret Hall Silva at Grand Arts Kansas City.

Victoria Miro Gallery is open Monday to Friday 10am until 5.30pm, Saturdays 11am-1pm