



HASTED KRAEUTLER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PAOLO VENTURA THE AUTOMATON OF VENICE

September 8 - October 15, 2011

Reception for the artist Thursday, September 8, 6 to 8 pm

HASTED  KRAEUTLER is pleased to announce *The Automaton of Venice*, new work by Paolo Ventura, beginning September 8 and running through October 15, 2011. This is the artist's fourth solo exhibition with HASTED  KRAEUTLER, following *Winter Stories* in 2008 and 2009 and *War Souvenir* in 2006.

The Automaton of Venice was created based on a story Ventura was told as a child. The fictional story centers around an elderly, Jewish watchmaker living in the ghetto of Venice in 1943, one of the darkest periods of the occupation of the Nazis and the rule of the fascist regime in Italy. The city where the watchmaker has lived his entire life, now desolate and fearful, is the stage where this story unfolds. The old man decides to build an automaton (an anthropomorphic robot), to keep him company while he awaits the arrival of the fascist police who will deport the last of the remaining Jews in the ghetto.

Paolo Ventura's creative process for *The Automaton of Venice* was first to write the story as he wanted to tell it through the photographs. He then builds elaborate models in his studio out of sets and miniature figurines. The final works are the photographs of the scenes created within the models. *The Automaton of Venice* is a photographic narrative from beginning to end. Five photographs from Ventura's newest body of work, *Behind the Walls*, will also be exhibited.



Paolo Ventura, *The Automaton #15*, 2010

Paolo Ventura's work is currently on display in the Italian national pavilion at the Arsenale at the Venice Biennale and in the exhibition *Otherworldly: Optical Delusions and Small Realities* at the Museum of Art and Design. His works have been acquired by prominent public collections including the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and the Martin Margulies Collection in Miami, Florida. Two monographs of Paolo Ventura's work have been published: *War Souvenir* (Contrasto, 2006) and *Winter Stories* (Aperture and Contrasto, 2009). He is also included in the new publication *Photographic Memory: The Album in the Age of Photography* (Aperture/ Library of Congress, 2011). There will be a pre-release special edition of *The Automaton* book available for purchase at the gallery, which will not be widely released until 2012. Please join us for a book signing on Saturday, September 17, 3 - 5 pm.

Paolo Ventura is represented exclusively by HASTED  KRAEUTLER in the United States. For further information, please contact HASTED  KRAEUTLER at 212-627-0006 or email info@hastedkraeutler.com.