

# 499parkavenue

THE LOBBY GALLERY AT 499 PARK AVENUE



Massimo Vitali, *Rosignano*, Cibachrome

## Acknowledgements

499 Park Avenue and Hines, through their exhibition program, actively contributes to the cultural community as an expression of ongoing commitment to excellence in the visual arts and architecture.

## Contributors

Jon Imber, courtesy of Art Advisory Services, Inc.

Massimo Vitali courtesy of Hamburg Kennedy Photographs

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# Coastal Views

JON IMBER, PAINTINGS OF MAINE  
MASSIMO VITALI, PHOTOGRAPHS OF ITALY



Jon Imber, *Peter's Boat Gear*, 1993

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Left: Jon Imber, *Stonington Harbor*, 2003

Above: Jon Imber, *From the Ledge*, 2007

Right: Massimo Vitali, *Vecchiano*, Cibachrome



Coastal regions have always attracted artists. Maine's rocky coast has a history of challenging important American painters such as George Bellows, John Marin, and Fairfield Porter. Italy's resort coasts have attracted artists such as Bruce Weber, Enzo Cucchi and Cy Twombly. The dramatic meeting of water, land and reflective light intensify coastal landscapes and create a unique visual challenge to artists. Jon Imber's paintings of Stonington Harbor, Maine and Massimo Vitali's photographs of Italian seaside resorts are visual interpretations of vastly different shorelines, yet both artists use the natural elements of land, sea and light as inspiration for their own unique and colorful contemporary coastal views.

#### Jon Imber

After ten years of working with the figure, (*Peter's Boat Gear I*, 1993) Imber's expressive paintings now focus on the landscape. (The abstracted landscape paintings in the exhibit were painted in the last five years). Imber's paintings are based on plein-air observations. He uses shapes, colors, and gestures to capture the spirit and excitement of experiencing nature firsthand.

Imber has a BFA from Cornell University and an MFA from Boston University. His work is in numerous collections, including the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, MA, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, ME and the Currier Gallery of American Art, Manchester, NH. In addition, he has been the recipient of numerous awards from the

National Endowment for the Arts, the Engelhard Foundation, Massachusetts lottery Grant and the Ballinglen Arts Foundation. The artist lives and works in Deer Isle, Maine and Boston.

#### Massimo Vitali

Vitali's photographs from along the coast of Italy, feature beachgoers crowding onto the narrow strip of sand before the sea. Positioned atop a tall scaffold, sometimes located a few meters into the water, Vitali uses a large-format camera to give viewers a birds-eye view of a scene. The grand perspective of these images is both precise and broad, invoking sensations alternating between desire and overload.

Massimo Vitali began showing his photographs in the early 1990s after a successful career as a photo journalist and cinematographer. In the 1990s he became internationally known for his large-scale photographs of Italian beaches, discos and other public spaces. His ability to display formal and narrative details with crowds of people enveloped by gigantic landscapes is astounding. His photos have been interpreted as a contemporary version of the genres of history and landscape painting, reinterpreted through photography.

Vitali was born in Como, Italy and continues to live and work in Italy.

Rebecca C. Shea