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[PRESS RELEASE]

>FAITHFUL
MIKE ROGERS



Formalities (Detail), Mike Rogers 2004

EXHIBITION DATES: APRIL 1 – MAY 2, 2005

GALLERY HOURS: FRIDAY TO MONDAY 1 TO 7 PM

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY APRIL 1, 6-9 PM

Mike Rogers looks at the world with the dry, apparently resigned, gaze of an artist who in a different century might have been a brassy bohemian, but instead has had to deal with spending his life trapped in the body of a middle-class American suburban family man. As a multimedia artist, Rogers pursues his underground parallel activity, for the most part recording, analyzing, presenting his America, but without ever giving the game away about where he really stands. One gets the feeling that if a revolution were anywhere on the distant horizon, Rogers would be the ideal sleeper, spending decades perfecting his knowledge of the banal existence of the American people, so that he will know what to do when the time comes.

The piece that provides the title for Mike Rogers' first solo show at Parker's Box is a Super 8 film called *Faithful*. Filmed at the Old Faithful geyser in Wyoming, the film shoots a frame every two seconds documenting the crush of summertime visitors to the legendary natural attraction. Over a 13-hour period visitors are seen moving quickly to the geyser so they don't miss an eruption, and then hurrying back to their cars to beat the rush out of the parking lot. *Faithful* is the second film of a trilogy that began with *Cross Country*, shown at Parker's Box in 2002, which documents a road trip from the Atlantic Ocean at Coney Island, Brooklyn to the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, California. *Cross Country* literally gives us an overview of the USA, coast to coast, telescoped down into a 23 minute journey. *Faithful*, is a similarly analytic examination of wave after wave of what seem like cloned groups of American tourists, visiting a famous landmark.

The exhibition at Parker's Box will also include a number of photographic works: *20 Backyards in Garden Grove, California* (2003) was photographed with a disposable panoramic camera held above the head revealing what could not be seen over cinderblock walls; *Big Shots* and *Retirement Party* (2005) are collaged internet-based amateur snaps - their images melded to suggest an endless occasion of shaking hands and lackluster dinners; while the panoramas *Fort* and *Centerville* (2005) are a kind of celebration of the homogeneous quality of Middle American towns and their repetitive monikers. The exhibition will also feature documentation of some of Roger's earlier projects and performance pieces such as *Peddling Hitler Watercolors in Austria* (2002); *Maple Syrop* (2005); and *A Matter of Currency* (2005).

Mike Rogers lives and works in Southern California. Recent exhibitions include: *Throb*, Parker's Box (2005), *Artists' Cups Project*, (with Dustin Ericksen) Hotel, London (2005), *The Morning After the Night Before*, Parker's Box (2004), *Cool and Collected*, Weatherspoon Museum, University of North Carolina, NC (2004), *Sharjah Biennial 6*, United Arab Emirates (2003), *Drawing Quirks II*, Parker's Box (2002), *I Wanna Be Joey Ramone*, Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA (2001).

For further information please don't hesitate to contact the gallery at 718 388 2882 / info@parkersbox.com