



© Carmela Uranga, Virginia, 2004, c-print on alu-dibond, 40 x 60 cm;
photographed during the residency at the Villa Waldberta, Munich

CARMELA URANGA Afloat

10 September – 30 October 2010

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Those entering the gallery Françoise Heitsch, and bearing witness to Carmela Uranga's installation, will be confronted with a frozen snapshot of a scene of devastation due to the raging forces of nature. As if the space has been flooded, furniture and objects are sliced in half and dispersed throughout the space; the grey floor carries their upper halves as if they were floating in water.

On the shelves around the space, which also seem to be slipping downwards, instable-looking objects are precariously balanced, caught in their fall; the whole conveys a sense of an unexpectedly and abruptly abandoned room. When moving from the "flooded room" downstairs to the basement, the visitor will experience an uncomfortable feeling of anxiety, as if s/he is standing beneath the surface, discovering the "roots" of the objects swimming in the space on the ceiling.

Only reluctantly will the visitor pause underneath these lower halves of the furniture, which "stick out of the water" on the ground floor, as the table legs, the sliced wardrobes and chair legs, hang threateningly above our heads. The reversed perception of the flood disaster on the ground floor generates a strong desire for shelter. Carmela Uranga (born 1968) creates a sculptural project in which one simultaneously seeks to keep one's head above water while being held afloat.

In so doing, she focuses on the increasing number of natural catastrophes and catastrophic global events, which shatter our self-centred everyday routines and force us to rethink our position if we are to prevent ourselves from drowning.