

Thomas K. Lang Gallery



HOTEL ROSSIJA **Markus Krottendorfer**

Introduction: Erich Klein, Journalist and Translator
Opening Reception: Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 7 p.m.

Duration of the Exhibition: April 12 through June 2, 2006
Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Webster University, Berchtoldgasse 1, 1220 Wien

Markus Krottendorfer exhibits photographic views of the exterior and the interior of the legendary Hotel Rossija in Moscow. The exhibition takes place at the T.K.Lang Gallery of the Webster University Vienna. The Rossija was inaugurated at the 50th-anniversary celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution, in 1967 under Chruschtschow. With more than 3,000 rooms and 5,000 beds it was the biggest hotel of the Soviet Union. It is centrally located in immediate vicinity of the Kremlin and right behind the Red Square and forms the urbanistic picture of the metropolis. Additionally, it was home to the International Moscow Film Festival and the location the USSR used to produce images of the Western world. The 11th floor housed the media center from which all foreign correspondents for the city made their reports from 1996 onwards.

In recent years, there was almost no centrally located accommodation in Moscow that was less expensive than the 70 Euros in the Hotel Rossija. On December 31st of 2005 the former prestigious hotel and symbol for Soviet modernity was ultimately closed. With its demolition, Moscow's most expensive realty location will become vacant.

Like in earlier photo series, Krottendorfer examines the symbolism of architecture within the frame of national representation and its changes.

In his works he raises the issue of image production as well as how to deal with history and its changes. What possibilities does documentary photography have? Markus Krottendorfer sounds its inherent limits while trying to record reality as a contemporary document.
(Sabine Dortschy)