

# M+B

## ARTSCENE™

CONTINUING AND RECOMMENDED, OCTOBER, 2010



Massimo Vitali, "Sacred Russian Pool, Turkey (#3140)," 2009, chromogenic print on Diasec, 72 x 86"

**Massimo Vitali** presents a series of large-scale photographs that resemble a mix of national geographic vistas combined with group portraiture of the leisure class as they soak up the spoils of their victories in exotic vacation and tourist locations. The sundrenched aesthetic and the large dimensions of Vitali's photographs provoke an otherworldly response that causes much reflection and careful looking. Is that sand or snow? It's difficult to tell upon first glance as the absence of markers leaves the viewer guessing and a bit unsure. The qualities that we typically recognize are unfamiliar and the people feel distant and foreign. These groups flock and lounge amid what appears to be an idyllic, serene, and relaxing atmosphere. However, there is a looming sense of unease, as none of the subjects seems to be aware of the camera capturing their exploits. The life of leisure and self-indulgence is difficult to ignore as the pools and places of relaxation are crowded by masses of people who lose their individuality amongst the group and instantly become reduced to no more than tourists and sunbathers ([M+B Gallery](#), West Hollywood). - GJD