

PICKS

Milan

Massimo Grimaldi

ZERO

Via Tadino 20

April 23–June 5

The title of Massimo Grimaldi's solo exhibition "Surfaces" expresses a key aim of his practice, which he elaborates on in his artist statement: "to produce pleasant surfaces that initially attract but then immediately implode into themselves, leaving you on the verge of the precipice, of the loss of any possible signification, any possible justification." The show opens with a pair of digital color prints on magnetic steel: two hyperdecorative surfaces that welcome and seduce viewers with their extreme abstraction. Observers have the impression of confronting something extremely familiar that nonetheless eludes recognition. During the show's opening, two children—as part of the work—rested with their backs against the prints, returning the gazes of the people who beheld them. The respective titles of the works tie these youths' transitory presences to the images: *Mariam Before the Image 'Rubine'*, 2010, and *Daba Before the Image 'Magnesia'*, 2010. In the same room is *Emergency's Bangui and Mayo Paediatric Centres Photos Shown on Two Apple iMac Core 2 Duo*, 2010. This work presents two synchronous slide shows on Apple's latest iMac, which came on the market right when these images were created. The result is an absolutely alienating contrast between the design of the computers and the significance of the photographs: pictures that document the activity of two pediatric clinics in the Central African Republic and in Sudan, both run by Emergency—an NGO to which Grimaldi donated half the prize money he received from the Fondazione Adolfo Pini.

Translated from Italian by Marguerite Shore.



Massimo Grimaldi, *Emergency's Bangui and Mayo Paediatric Centres Photos Shown on Two Apple iMac Core 2 Duo*, 2010, dual slide show, two iMacs, dimensions variable. Installation view.

— Marco Tagliafierro