

# Paradise Row



Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin, *Strip Test 1*, 2012, C-41 print on fiber based paper, 200 x 98 cm

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## Press Release

Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin

To Photograph  
The Details  
Of A Dark Horse  
In Low Light

13/09/2012 – 20/10/2012

The title of Broomberg and Chanarin's new solo exhibition at Paradise Row was originally the coded phrase used by Kodak to describe the capabilities of a new film stock developed in the early 80's to address the inability of their earlier films to accurately render dark skin.

Jean-Luc Godard famously refused to use Kodak film during an assignment to Mozambique in 1977, on the grounds that the film stock was inherently 'racist'. In response to a commission to 'document' Gabon, Broomberg and Chanarin recently made several trips to the country to photograph a series of rare Bwiti initiation rituals, using only Kodak film stock that had expired in the late 1950's.

Using outdated chemical processes Broomberg and Chanarin succeeded in salvaging just a single frame from the many colour rolls they exposed during their visits. It is presented along side an array of black and white photographic tests, whose parameters were dictated to them by a deceased family friend, an anatomist and amateur photographer, Dr. Rosenberg.

The exhibition centers around a series of these partly exposed, haphazardly cropped proto-images, originally printed as test strips. The grey tones, grain and texture of black and white photographic chemistry are foregrounded in these outsized 'darkroom' experiments.

In this wide-ranging meditation on the relationship between photography and race, the artists continue to scrutinise the photographic medium, leading viewers through a convoluted history lesson; a combination of found images, rescued artifacts and unstable new photographic works.

With special thanks to David Rosenberg and Josh Ponte.

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