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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: Carlos and Jason Sanchez
SHOW DATES: February 21 – April 18, 2009
RECEPTION: Saturday, February 21, 6-8 pm
GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday 10-6

DNJ Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition featuring eleven large-scale color photographs by Carlos and Jason Sanchez. The work touches on various themes: religion, family, sexuality, suburban motifs and adolescence. These artists play on our perversions, our subtle prejudices. The brothers awaken voices inside us that, conscious or not, we do everything in our ability to keep quiet. They drag us to those corners of our psyches that we dare not go alone, and in doing so, shed light where no natural light exists.

Much of their technique is “borrowed from the film world,” as Jason says. The force of the photographic tableaux comes from the tension that begins with its refusal to do what film does best: provide a beginning, middle and end. At first they approached each image like a film still, by creating a fragment of a longer narrative, allowing the viewers to fill in the gaps, and creating a storyline in their minds. Although their newer work still resembles the film still, they now focus on the content of the images to expose the emotional and psychological sides of the subjects with which they work.

The Sanchez brothers’ work references directors David Lynch, Stanley Kubrick and PT Anderson, as well as photographers, Jeff Wall, Eileen Cowin and Gregory Crewdson. The inspiration for these images comes from the news, the television and the Internet. For example, in the image “John Mark Karr,” they approached the self-confessed “killer” of six-year-old Jon Benet Ramsey. Although DNA testing failed to implicate Karr in the murder, the brothers became fascinated with Karr’s story after watching him on CNN. They were invited to Atlanta where Karr lives with his father, and staged his portrait, including the red shirt Karr was wearing while arrested in Bangkok.

Each photograph is the result of months of labor; the process plays an important role in final execution of each image. The Sanchez brothers construct the set for each image from floor to ceiling, taking the care to include particular props, furniture, color choices and lighting, with the intention of creating a certain mood. The brothers then direct family and friends instead of real actors, because they prefer to keep the anonymity of their cast and they believe that ‘ordinary people’ bring a sense of unfamiliarity or angst to the photographs. Even the titles play an important role in both the construction of the image and the final result. At times, the title comes first and the image is built around it. At the end of the process, they digitally define and tune the photo’s effects for the final product.

Carlos and Jason Sanchez began working together behind the lens in 2001 shortly before they received their first grant from the Du Maurier Arts Council. A second Du Maurier grant enabled them to end their studies at Concordia University in Montreal in 2003 and pursue photography full-time. The brothers have had numerous exhibitions throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Their work is included in many esteemed collections such as the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, and the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa, Canada.

Please contact the gallery for more information or images.