



OS GEMEOS

TOO FAR TOO CLOSE

JUNE 28 – AUGUST 9, 2008

18 WOOSTER STREET

Os Gemeos (pronounced "ose zhe'-mee-ose.") are two artists from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Gustavo and Otavio Pandolfo were born in 1974, identical twin brothers whose pseudonym, Os Gemeos, translates to "the twins" in Portuguese. In addition to their incredible works created on the streets of Sao Paulo, the twins have in recent years exhibited their art in museums all over the world.

In *Too Far Too Close* they will be transforming the gallery into a fantastical cityscape with houses, doors, and passageways, all brought to life with their signature style of imagery. Building upon a group of artworks created for the Museum Het Domein in the Netherlands, this show features new paintings, sculpture, and installation bringing all the magical moments of their work together in one tightly knit dream world of an exhibition.

In this installation, Os Gemeos populate urban and rural sculptural settings with bright yellow figures of common—and very uncommon—people. With a hand style of painting and embellished with jewels, sequins or feathers, they create sensitive and odd portraits of street musicians, grandfathers, rumped and rough-looking children, or awkward teens, alongside

fantastical creatures of their dream life. The smallest detail often contains a very big surprise.

Their sculpture and installation completes their vision by giving these figures a world to populate, and giving them musical instruments! The upper deck of this exhibition will feature numerous decorated instruments and walls covered in face-painted but very functional amplifiers, inviting guests to join in the band. There are also multiple large head sculptures that visitors can explore and find domestic settings of the artists' childhood.

Os Gemeos's particular process has led to a unique vernacular very specific to Sao Paulo. Most works are created using latex house paint, rollers and spray for the details. The artists championed this new style and mixed different influences from the street to create their own distinctly recognizable aesthetic. A wood-covered car carrying an enormous head sculpture, an over-sized guitar, and enormous puppetry are some of their new projects to which they bring their rough and ready, lovingly handmade style.

Os Gemeos divide their painting mode in two, painting together, and starting and finishing each other's works. The works convey their vision of day-to-day life, simple scenes that are sensually rich. The artists are interested in what lies inside of people, beneath the surface. Characters are often seen emerging from hiding places, and sculptures often have figures hidden in them, trap doors, or secret moments to discover. They are influenced by Brazilian folklore, and music culture, creating characters that are reflections of both local customs and the urban sprawl mimicking the contradictions of the world around them. However in their words, "we only report scenes from a magic, love, hate,

and real place that live inside us, a real dream, the scene of our own universe."

Os Gemeos have been exhibiting in galleries and museums including: The Baltic Museum in New Castle, Urbis Museum in Manchester, MAM in Sao Paulo, Museum Het Domein in The Netherlands, Kerburn Castle in Scotland, The Tate Modern in London, and as a part of Steve Power's Dreamland Artist Club installation in Coney Island.

Too Far Too Close is the second solo exhibition at Deitch Projects by Os Gemeos.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT JASMINE LEVETT AT
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