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PRESS RELEASE

ENGLISH

**OLEG DOU**  
***Toystory***

**3 February – 12 March 2010**

Tuesdays to Fridays, 5 pm to 8 pm; Saturdays, 5 pm to 8.30 pm

**Senda-Espai 2NOU2 presents for the first time in a Spanish gallery, the photographic work of young Russian artist OLEG DOU (Moscow, 1983), one of the most promising artists of contemporary photography in Russia.**

Oleg Dou's work develops and pushes to the limit the idea of the human body as an object of subversion, distortion and other mutations that undermine their integrity. In an interview with *Zoom Magazine*, the young photographer said: "I have a passion for a human face. I use artificial nature of a digital photography as a tool to reach the point between opposites such as alive and dead, attractive and disturbing, beautiful and ugly."

Oleg Dou uses digital photography to portray fictional characters and inquire about the concepts of beauty, perfection and innocence. His images, which refer to the video game universe, kitsch or fashion, are disturbing and calming at the same time, undoubtedly sick but peculiarly youthful and alive. With his extremely careful work, Dou encourages these ambivalent emotions, seeking to agitate the viewer's sense of what is a normal appearance.

In the *Toystory* series, Dou approaches his young subjects with an uneasily sweeter eye, focusing on the faces of children. The images are sterilized completely in white, sometimes supplemented with a coquettish children's accessory (Batman's mask), which is given a sinister blood red hue. Initially, the viewer encounters a palpable sense of purity with the subject, but the image manages to retain an awkward tinge of distorted reality that is signature Dou. Ultimately, the artist wants us to realize the perversion in our limited perception of what defines innocence and youth.

In a world where artificiality, special effects and hyper reality are part of our everyday Dou makes us feel that it is part of that strange human intrinsically. His juxtaposition of cultural and aesthetic concepts attracts us and makes us enter into a rereading of the contemporary identity of a curiously poetic and harmonious way.

Oleg Dou studied at the Moscow State Institute of Steel and Alloys (2001-2006). He had his first solo exhibition at the Galerie Le Simoun of Paris, at age 23. In 2007 he was awarded the International Photography Awards and the International Color Awards, which garnered him the attention of the international art community. Since then his work has been included in numerous group exhibitions in various centers in Europe and North America, and reproduced in numerous publications. His upcoming exhibitions, shows the collective *Atopia* at CCCB Barcelona (February 25 to May 24, 2010).

**Opening: Wednesday, February 3, 7.30-9.00 pm**

**The artist will be present.**

**For further information or images, please contact us at [registre@galerisenda.com](mailto:registre@galerisenda.com).**