



AMA

ART MUSEUM of the AMERICAS
ORGANIZATION of AMERICAN STATES

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Lost Worlds: Ruins of the Americas

Photographs by Arthur Drooker

On view December 5 - February 24, 2012

AMA | OAS F Street Gallery

1889 F Street, NW (corner of 18th Street)

Washington, DC 20006

Hours: MON - FRI | 9AM - 5PM

Monday, December 5 at 6PM:

Opening Reception



The OAS **AMA** | Art Museum of the Americas announces *Lost Worlds: Ruins of the Americas*, an exhibition of photographs by Arthur Drooker. This work presents a visual narrative of the cultures, conflicts and conquests that forged the New World. Covering significant ruins of OAS member states including Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America, *Lost Worlds* offers a pictorial survey of the geographical, architectural and historical diversity that defines the Americas.

In 2007, Drooker created the *American Ruins* series, a traveling exhibition and accompanying publication of historic ruins within the United States. With this new body of work, he broadens his scope to the Americas, aiming to shed light on their collective identity.

Drooker traveled to thirty-three ruins in fifteen countries over a three-year period. They range from the iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites to places that are less well known but no less intriguing. They include a king's palace in Haiti, Inca fortresses in Peru, Maya pyramids in Mexico, and a colonial city in Panama sacked by legendary pirates. Drooker photographed each site with a specially adapted digital infrared camera, recording an invisible band of light that envelops ruins in an otherworldly glow.

This exhibition further highlights the importance of issues surrounding the contributions and cultural wealth of the indigenous peoples of the Americas to the mission of the OAS. Indigenous topics have been the subject of numerous OAS General Assembly resolutions, which in recent years have called for the adoption of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Different areas of the organization carry out specific projects aimed at promoting the protection, well-being, and development of indigenous peoples and communities in our hemisphere. Likewise, the Summits of the Americas and the bodies making up the inter-American human rights system play a vital role and constantly strive to defend and promote indigenous peoples' rights.

