

**PREVIEW:**

Marc Lüders

East Side Gallery

October 18 - November 15

[Marty Walker Gallery](http://www.martywalkergallery.com)

2135 Farrington Street, Dallas

(214) 749-0066 www.martywalkergallery.com

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 18, 6-8

East Side Gallery

In 1990 more than one hundred international artists were commissioned to paint murals on a 1.3-mile section of what remains of the Berlin wall, that monumental legacy of an era that can't help but live on in this relic of material substance. East Side Gallery is the name that was given to this painted section that subsequently became weathered and decayed and finally written over with graffiti and texts. **Marc Lüders**, a German artist who combines painting and photography by painting directly on metallic photo paper to create an interplay between reality and illusion, was inspired by what had become of the East Side Gallery and had the idea to photograph sections of it. He then imposed his own painted marks on the photographs, playing off the graffiti and mural paintings on the wall. The end result is both a charged symbol for contemporary Germany and a display of the artist's contemporary version of trompe l'oeil. Lüders' painted "additions" blur the line of documentation and illusion, truth and fiction, and suggest another level of reality -- this latter mostly indicated by the painted shadows that elongated lines or blob-like forms on the wall or on the ground seem to cast. In fact, the sausage-like shapes hover in the foreground, as if suspended in mid-air, and the shadows, normally and classically the proof of an object's physical existence in space, cause the painted forms to appear anything but real. Lüders' carefully selected elements sometimes become relief-like, like; tangible, physical traces on the surface of the photographs. The abstract shapes, sometimes suggestive of spontaneous brushstrokes, are not spontaneous, but rather suggest an added layer with a lesser degree of reality. The artist currently lives and works in Hamburg, and this will be his first exhibition in the United States outside of New York.

***by Rinchen Lhamo***