

## W\*blog: Editor-at-Large

### ART

#### Hauser & Wirth pre-opening

The following day I decided there were too many attractions for the evening so had to make a few phone calls to bring some forward. Could I go to art gallery [Hauser & Wirth](#), for example, for my own personal "pre-opening" (a concept they themselves started during Frieze) to see the work of Canadian "poet of images" Ian Wallace who, I was told, "explores the interplay between form and content, using photography as a vehicle for developing an avant-garde art that weds the strategies of conceptualism with the pictorial tropes of painting". It is true that in doing so since the late '60s, Wallace became the pioneer of a photoconceptualism that fundamentally influenced and reconfigured contemporary art practice in Vancouver. I like what I have seen of him and wanted to see the work that I knew would be site specific to a gallery I adore anyway. No problem, said Roger of H and W. Phew. That would mean lunch with Arik Levy at the [Wolseley](#) was now possible as he arrived in town from Paris for his own opening with Vitra the same evening. Both were on Piccadilly. Lunch we had (The Wolseley is somewhere between retro and new dining since owners Jeremy King and Chris Corbin have been at it for years). Rather than plumping for foie gras we went for the more restrained eggs benedict in true retro fashion and I made it to the gallery by 3pm.

The installation was well worth seeing as it sets up a number of tacit relationships in the form of the [Tate](#) spectators (The Audience) and the sculpted torsos at the [British Museum](#) (The Marbles) that face each other across the gallery. My favourite images were The Street where you see directly beyond the wall on which they are hung and the canvases in The Wall dwell on the plastering and painting of this same wall some months before. Typically of Wallace's works, these images emphasise presence. Present we were (Arik liked them too) but in a hurry to divide and conquer. Arik made off to Clerkenwell.