

BRANCOLINI GRIMALDI
ARTE CONTEMPORANEA

PRESENTS

LISE SARFATI

Austin, Texas

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Lise Sarfati, Eva-Claire #02 Austin, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome

GALLERIA BRANCOLINI GRIMALDI

6th May 2009 - 14th June 2009

OPENING

Wednesday, 6th May 2009 - 6:00 PM

PRESS RELEASE

Brancolini Grimaldi is pleased to announce "Austin, Texas", an exhibition of 26 color photographs by Lise Sarfati from May 6 - June 14, 2009. The opening will take place at the gallery on May 6th at 6 pm, Via dei Tre Orologi 6/A, Roma.

LISE SARFATI - Austin, Texas-

Lise Sarfati's newest series, "Austin, Texas" was completed in 2008, as part of her trilogy on the United States which started with the series "The New Life", published by Twin Palms in 2005 and continued with the series "Immaculate and She", which will be published this year by Steidl Mack and as a portfolio in Aperture magazine. "Austin, Texas" was published in October 2008 by Magnum Publisher under the title "Lise Sarfati, Fashion Magazine".

THE FICTIONAL DOCUMENT

In her work, Lise Sarfati makes no distinction between documentary and fiction. The choice of the city of Austin, Texas is anything but trivial: Austin is both the geographic center of the United States and the epicenter of the underground rock scene.

The series presents teenage characters operating in a familiar environment: that of Austin, with its wooden houses, its interiors, its streets and its muted colors.

SPACE AND THE BODY

Lise Sarfati's work focuses on the relationship between the body and space. It is this continuous interaction of the characters within their space which structures her approach. She does not refer to her work as portraiture, but as a "study" of figures.

Quentin Bajac, Head of the Photography Department at the Museum of Modern Art, Centre Georges Pompidou, describes this phenomenon quite well: "All these girls are located in the 'here and now' of the picture and an indefinable elsewhere. This fundamental ubiquity is, to my mind, the reason for Sarfati's interest in young models. [...] Each of these photos literally records the distance between a body and the space that surrounds it, and in that way, metaphorically (and this time very consciously) constructs a relationship between the model and the world around her." (1)

NARRATIVE FASHION

Naïve and brutal, seemingly straight out of a novel, with powerful sensuality, reclined on an armchair in the family room, or roaming the streets of a possible Texan Eden, these young women have no purpose, no cause to fight, no clear action to explain their restless wandering. "The clothing always seems to have been chosen to match the model, and the logic is one of (suite)

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Lise Sarfati, Kate#04 Austin, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Eva-Claire#06 Austin, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Christy#03 Austin, TX 2008,,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Eva-Claire #05 Austin, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Eva-Claire#01, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Molly#03 Austin, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome

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verisimilitude – each young woman projects a character she has chosen, but remains completely in harmony with her own natural context and setting. In accordance with Sarfati's photographic maieutics, they're full participants in the final photo's mise en scène.[...] Thus the change induced by the closing has nothing in common with metamorphosis. It is even imperceptible sometimes. In any case, the clothing never seems to be a disguise under which the model disappears. (Quentin Bajac "Life Stills")(2)

PERPETUAL ADOLESCENCE

Lise Sarfati's approach is deeply rooted in the literary concept of permanent immaturity, described by writer Witold Gombrowicz. In his masterpiece *Ferdydurke*, the author states "youth was not for her a transitional period: for a modern person, it was the only period that was real in all of existence." an idea Sarfati's work continuously references.

Quentin Bajac again eloquently explains this fundamental contribution to the photographer's work : "She likes to cite Gombrowicz and his fondness for the concept of immaturity – a secret revolt, a silent refusal, a game played with life and reality, and especially the idea of a subject both malleable and yet elusive, who always, in the end, slips away."(3)

Lise Sarfati herself explains to Rick Owens in another interview on *Fashion Magazine*: "What interests me about American teenagers isn't the social dimension. It's adolescence from a more general view, as a metaphor, a transition, a mirror. »

DAILY ROMANCES

This undeniable contribution of literary work forged Sarfati's perception and photographic practice, giving her a marked taste for storytelling. The artist is interested in the anti-heroic stories of teenagers from provincial cities in the USA.

Each of the three series are a transverse story; each evoking a new story that plunges us into literary imaginings. For Sarfati, photographic aesthetics are not built by the photographer's eye, but by an accumulation of experiences and sensations that create a complex world, a unique history.

Paris, 5th January 2009

Lise Sarfati's work is included in numerous public collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at FOAM Amsterdam; the Domus Artium, Salamanca, Spain; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France; and the Nicolaj Center of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark. In 1996, the artist was awarded the Prix Niepce in Paris and the Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York.

(1)(2)(3) Quentin Bajac, "Life Stills" from Lise Sarfati *Fashion Magazine Austin, Texas*, october 2008, Magnum Publisher



LISE SARFATI, FASHION MAGAZINE

Guest Contributors : Quentin Bajac, Conservateur en Chef du Cabinet de la Photographie du Centre Pompidou, Carla Sozzani, Azzedine Alaïa, Rick Owens.

Selected as one of the top 10 photography books of 2008 by John Gossage and Martin Parr from PHOTO-EYE magazine.

Paperback: 216 pages
Publisher : Magnum (7th october 2008)
Language : French/English
ISBN-10: 2952410224
ISBN-13: 978-2952410229

NOW :



Lise Sarfati, Jennifer#01 Austin, TX 2008
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome

The International Center of Photography (ICP) presents "Jennifer # 01, Austin, Texas in 2008" in the group show :

WEIRD BEAUTY
FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY NOW

January 16 - May 3, 2009

Curators :
ICP Curator Carol Squiers
ICP Adjunct curator Vince Aletti

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Lise Sarfati, Eva-Claire #02 Austin, TX 2008,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Kate#04 Austin, TX 2008,,
© Lise Sarfati, Courtesy Brancolini Grimaldi, Rome



Lise Sarfati, Eva-Claire#01 Austin, TX 2008,
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LISE SARFATI

Lives and works in Paris and United States.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2009

Lise Sarfati – Austin, Texas – Brancolini Grimaldi Galleria, Roma. May 6 – June 14.

2008

Lise Sarfati - Recent works - Le loft Sévigné, Paris, France. Nov 9, – Nov 16.,
Rough, Cold and Close :A Russian Poem. Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA. Oct24 - Nov 29.
Lise Sarfati - Fashion Magazine, Maison Rouge, Paris, France. October 7.
Lise Sarfati, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milano, Italy. Sept 6 - Oct 19.
The New Life, Centre National de l'Audiovisuel, Dudelange, Luxembourg. June 25 - August 31.
The New Life, Center of Contemporary Art «Vinzavod » for the Seventh International
Month of Photography "Photobiennale" Moscow, Russia. March 21 - April 27.

2007

The New Life, FOAM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. May 25 - July 8.
The New Life, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, Scotland. 1 September - 10 November.

2006

The New Life, UC Riverside California Museum of Photography, USA. August 5 - October 7.
La Vie Nouvelle Lise Sarfati, Rencontres Internationales d'Arles, France. July 7 - September 19.
The New Life, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA. April 1 - May 30.
Lise Sarfati Retrospective Nicolaj Center of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark. 27 January - 28 March.

2005

Lise Sarfati The New Life, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA. October 20 - November 26.
La Vie Nouvelle, Museo de San Telmo, San Sebastian, Spain. September 16 - October 16.
Lise Sarfati American series, The Photographer's gallery London, UK. June 16 - July 31.

2004

Lise Sarfati Retrospective, Russian series, The New Life, Domus Artium Centro del Arte
Salamanca, Spain. October 16 - December 5.

2002

Lise Sarfati, Russian Series, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France. January
23 - April 7.
Lise Sarfati Post Factum, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles, France.

1997 -1996

Musée Nicephore Niepce, Lise Sarfati, Prix Niepce, Chalon-sur-Saone, France. November
29 - February 2. 1997
Lise Sarfati Prix Niepce, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France. September
17 - October 21 1996

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2009

"Weird Beauty : Fashion Photography Now", International Center of Photography, (ICP)
January 16 - May 3

2008

The Greenroom: Reconsidering the Documentary and Contemporary Art, CCS Bard
Galleries and Hessel, Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. September 27 08 -
February 01 09

Réfléchir le monde, La Centrale Electricque, European Center for Contemporary Art,
Bruxelles, Belgium. October 15 - January 11. 2009.

2007

Easy Rider, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, USA. July 11 – September 8.

June Bride, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA. June 7 – August 17.

Women of Many Faces, Isabelle Huppert. Fotomuseum Der Haag, The Netherlands.
April 7 – June 17.

Museo Nazionale del Cinema, Turin, Italy. December 6/06 – March 3/07

Euro Visions, Musée Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgique. March 8 –
July 01

2006

Women of Many Faces, Isabelle Huppert. PSI Contemporary Art Center, Museum of
Modern Art, Long Island City, USA. October 30 – December 5.

Gallery C/O Berlin, Germany. March 1 – April 30.

Botanic Garden, Madrid, Spain.

Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan. July 1 - August 8.

Couvent des Cordeliers, Paris, France. February 4 – February 25.

Euro Visions, Milan, Italie. January 12 – February 12.

Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary. June 9 – August 30.

Zamec, Warsaw, Poland. October 9 – November 26.

2005

Euro Visions, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, September 14 – October 17

2001

Fondation Huis Marseille Oublier l'exposition, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

BOOKS

- 2009 *Immaculate*, Lise Sarfati by Steidl Mack
2008 *Lise Sarfati, Fashion Magazine* by Magnum Publisher
2005 *The New Life / La Vie Nouvelle*, Lise Sarfati by Twin Palms Publisher
2004 *Lise Sarfati*, Fundacion Salamanca Ciudad de Cultura
2000 *Acta Est*, Lise Sarfati, Phaidon Publisher

COLLECTIONS

- SFMOMA San Francisco of Modern Art, CA, USA
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France
LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA, USA
Collection Michael Wilson, London, UK
Brooklyn Museum, NY, USA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA
Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
Bouwfonds Kunststichting, Netherlands
Fond National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
Domus Artium, Salamanca, Spain
Fondation ABN AMRO pour la Photographie, Paris, France
Musée Nicephore Niepce, Chalon-sur-Saone, France
Fondation Enrique ORDÓÑEZ, Spain
Lhoist, Belgium

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 1996 Prix Niepce, Paris, France
Infinity Award, International Center of Photography, New York, USA
Villa Médicis Hors les Murs, Paris, France
1995 FIACRE Ministère de la Culture, Paris, France
1994 Prime à la qualité ; « C'est moi, c'est Roger » Centre National du Cinéma,
Paris, France

FILMS

- 1994 C'est moi, c'est Roger

EDUCATION

- MA in Russian Studies, Sorbonne, Paris