



Untitled II (2013-15) hand painted and embroidered on gelatine silver print, 24x25cm, AP

UNIQUE EDITIONS

PAULINA SURYS + ZANE MELLUPE EXHIBITION

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5.DEC.2015 — 6.MAR.2016

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, FROM 10AM TO 7PM

rue des renards / vossenstraat 28 • 1000 bruxelles / brussel • belgium
tel. +32 2 502 40 58 • contact@ifa-gallery.com

ifa-gallery.com

UNIQUE EDITIONS

From Walter Benjamin (*The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, 1936) to Roland Barthes (*Camera Lucida*, 1980), the 20th century has mostly taken photography as a multipliable art form. « What the photograph reproduces to infinity has occurred only once. » wrote Roland Barthes. In this exhibition, two artists, Zane Mellupe and Paulina Surys, take a different stance towards photography as a unique art piece. Photography here frees itself from the two-dimensional medium, exploring both new artistic fields and technical supports, becoming thus a physical object, a unique creation. We rediscover the emotion contained in that instant through a no longer reproducible picture, since its reality has already been altered by the artist's own hand.

Studying photography since the age of 14, in Riga, London and Shanghai, Zane Mellupe conceives her artistic works as a way of « thinking in images ». Her installations, or multi-medium photographic works, centre around the hidden interpretations of our emotions. She employs the photographic medium as a tool that inspires her creative process. As such, her installations are often composed of everyday objects with an added photographic element, the collision of two universes from which arise new meanings. Zane Mellupe takes to an extreme the language of objects and photography, bringing together different materials, employing innovative techniques of printing on metal, wood, material, or even intervening manually on the negatives. Her artistic approach could be considered a return through sensuality to the original meaning of photography, that of capturing sensations of reality.

A recurrent element in the work of the artist, the photographed body, becomes an object itself. It is often presented naked, in foetal position, curled up, closed off and solitary. In « Functions or speaking in the terms of tools », the naked body of a woman is printed on the interior of a carpenter's toolbox. The object becomes the visual metaphor of different roles and uses of the feminine body. The photography of Zane Mellupe cannot be read in isolation from their integrated object, giving a poetic narrative of their history. The work of Zane Mellupe, in all its variations, consists in a questioning of photography, treating the image as an object, and at the same time multiplying the suggestions power of the image.

Paulina Surys studied at the National Art Academy of Fine Arts in Wroclaw (Poland), before her studies in photography in London. Her approach to photography is inspired in classic visual references while employing a singular and modern method. She uses entirely argentic photography, not only for its aesthetic value but also for the magic of the chemical reaction, fixing objects and people to a unique result, unlike in digital photography. The traditional process of photographic development cannot be dissociated from the work of the artist, it is the motor of his artistic creation. Printing in black and white is a basis allowing an ulterior intervention of colour, collage, embroidery or other materials. Influenced by surrealism, the creative act must, through photography, proceed from an instinctive state arising from the depths of the subconscious. Paulina Surys uses in a particular way Baryta matte paper, which was used in the 19th century for portraits, by Nadar among others. Her photographs, embellished with the stroke of her paintbrush, create an experimental universe inspired by Georges Bataille evoking eroticism, narcissism, death, manipulation, beauty and love. They become timeless photographic objects.

The artist uses also the Polaroid, another approach to the unique photographic work. Invented in 1948, this instant film allows for errors, imperfections; it can only be produced once. Paulina Surys creates using this technique spontaneous clichés, repainted, pasted or even stitched to create unique photographic objects. This appears in her series « Notes on Blindness », in which she seeks to transcribe a seemingly imperceptible truth through piercing her clichés with threads that penetrate the body. The resulting work affirms itself, sensual, provocative and surrealist.

ZANE MELLUPE

1982 RIGA, LATVIA



Bites 2013

bites on negative, print on silk mounted on aluminum composite panel, 30x50cm, edition of 3



how do you feel 2014
print on scissors, 40x30cm

Zane Mellupe is a Shanghai-based artist and Sinologist from Latvia. She works on photography since the age of fourteen. At the meantime, she studied Sinology at the University of Latvia and moved to China in 2000.

After doing her Theatre Direction studies in Shanghai Theatre Academy and completing her Bachelor Degree in Shanghai Teachers University (Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language & Literature, 2004), Mellupe pursued her education in the United Kingdom (Master of Arts in Photojournalism & Documentary Photography, University of the Arts, London 2007).

From 2007 to 2010, she has been working as the creative director of Island6 arts centre in Shanghai. In 2010, Zane Mellupe developed a community art street, Yongkang Lu Art with several experimental spaces. Zane Mellupe's art has been exhibited in China and Europe in galleries and museums.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 - "Another Trilogy", ifa gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2014 - "Shanghai Lights". Professional Photography school, Riga, Latvia
2013 - "Shanghai Lights". Kultūras pils (The Castle of Culture), Viesīte, Latvia
2012 - "Šanhajas gaismas". M.Buclera Photograph Chamber, Lone City, Latvia
2010 - "Shanghai Lights". Centre of culture Majori, Latvia
2009 - "Šanhajas gaismas". Bibliotēka., Saldus, Latvia
2009 - "Shanghai Lights". Museum of Olaine, Latvia
2008 - "Shanghai Lights". Latvijas Fotogrāfijas muzejs. Rīga / Latvija
2011 - "In memory of the perfect wife", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2008 - "Shanghai lights", Photography Museum of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
2005 - "Also in China", House of United Nations, Riga, Latvia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 - Beirut Art Fair, Beirut, Liban
2014 - Photo Shanghai, ifa gallery booth, Shanghai, China
2014 - Art Paris Art Fair, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
2014 - "uncovered China", ifa gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2013 - "Investigation no.3: Mr & Mrs Zhang", Art Paris, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
2013 - "Drawing and what", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2012 - "secret 7", Chris Gill studio, Shanghai, China
2012 - "my country", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2012 - "St-Art Fair", Galerie Libre Cours booth, Strasbourg, France
2012 - "secret 7", YY bar, Shanghai, China
2012 - "Red land, yellow stars", Galerie Libre Cours & ifa gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2012 - "Cells", SH Contemporary 12, Shanghai, China
2012 - "The left leg of a cat", Art: Gwangju:12, Gwangju, Korea
2012 - "closet", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2012 - "Something in Common", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2012 - "investigation no.2: facing distance", Art Paris, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
2012 - "Trace, line, shadow", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2011 - "Ruby, Roxy and the flaming Lamborghini", Studio Rouge, Shanghai, China

2011 - "The hell. the heaven. on the way. in between", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2011 - "15 days without You", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2011 - "Enquête n°1", Art Paris+guests, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
2011 - "The Birth of a myth - part II - Art in a state of Alertness", YK Art Space, Shanghai, China
2010 - "The birth of a myth - part I", YK Art Space, Shanghai, China
2010 - "Come, take a walk with me", Yongkang Lu Art, Shanghai, China
2010 - "Police and Her", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2010 - "Absolute 0:00", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2010 - "Fakirs", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2009 - "Placebo", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2009 - "30 Degrees", Island 6 arts center & Studio Rouge, Shanghai, China
2009 - "Synesthesia", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2009 - "Individual: New Art from Beyond Beijing", Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
2009 - "LEDs animés", Gallery Twenty-One, Paris, France
2009 - "Art Paris 09"(Art Fair), Gallery Loft & Gallery Twenty-One Paris, France
2009 - "The Artist Died Yesterday", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2008 - "Shanghai Lights" Solo Exhibition, Photography Museum of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
2008 - "Automata", Island 6 & ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2008 - "Urban Lust", Island 6 & ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
2008 - "Fernelmont Contemporary Art, second edition" Festival Fernelmont, Castle of Fernelmont, Belgium
2008 - "Quadrareil Cerchio" (Squaring the Circle), Allegra Ravizza Art Project, Milano, Italy
2008 - "Clouds of Crowds", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2008 - "Roma Contemporary Art Fair", Manaart Roma, Italy
2008 - "Zero Gravity", Sun Gallery, Shanghai, China
2007 - "PlugIT", Blue Lotus Gallery, Hong-Kong
2007 - "Made in Shanghai", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2007 - "Festival Art Continu", Morocco
2007 - "Made in China", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2007 - "PlugIT", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
2006 - "Life Circle", LCC, London, UK
2006 - "Cable Street& the art pavilion (70th Anniversary of the Battle of Cable St)", London, UK
2005 - "Also in China", Solo Exhibition, House of United Nations, Riga, Latvia

PAULINA SURYS

1982 LESZNO, POLAND



notes on blindness 2015

IMPOSSIBLE polaroid type 600, embroidered, 10x9cm



I'm sad and happy both together at the same time 2015
hand painted, folded on gelatin silver print, 26x24cm

Originally trained as a painter at the National Art Academy of Fine Arts in Wroclaw, Poland, Paulina Surys turned to photography after she graduated. Her work involves the physical manipulation of analogue photographs she's taken and hand processed herself, an approach that combines her formal training as a fine art painter with her photographic practice. Eager to offer an alternative to mass produced digital photography, Paulina Surys is committed to keep her creations unique.

The result is grotesque, sublime and illusory. Passionate about fashion and design, the photographer has collaborated with numerous magazines such as VISION China, Vogue.It, Vanity Fair, DROME, VOGUE.com, The British Journal of Photography, AnOther Man, Wonderland, ...

Paulina lives and works in London (United Kingdom).

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 – FOTOFEVER, Paris, France

2015 – "8x8 IMPOSSIBLE", Polaroid Group Show, Hoxton Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2015 – QPark, Light and photography Installation, London, United Kingdom

2015 – "BIG DEAL No666", pop up gallery, London United Kingdom

2015 – Venice Biennale - group show, Arts Council England, Venice, Italy

2015 – Elephant Haven Auction, with Yoko Ono, Peter Blake, Paula Rego, Polly Morgan, Russel Young, Kate Garner, Corinne Day, London, United Kingdom

2015 – Museum of Erotism, Warsaw, Poland

2015 – "Lovers' Discord", KONTOR Projects – as part of COPENHAGEN ART WEEK – group show with Alasdair Duncan, Benny Nemerofsky Ramsay, Esther Teichmann and Alana Lake, Copenhagen, Denmark

2015 – RPPC Rencontres Parisiennes de la Photographie Contemporaine#7 with NUE Galerie, Paris, France

2013 – "On Paraphotography: Uncertainty, the Occult and the Uncanny", curated by Brad Feuerhelm - with Joel Peter Witkin, Jeffrey Silverthorne, Tereza Zelankova, Harlan Levey Projects Space, Brussels, Belgium

2013 – Michael Hoppen Gallery, SPLINTER Art Fair (curated by Brad Feuerhelm) - with Cristina de Middel, Tereza Zelankova, Eva Stenram, London, United Kingdom

2013 – "25 Photographers", VOGUE ITALIA exhibition, 10 Corso Como, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy

2012 – "Mythologies", group exhibition with Wendy Bevan, Stefan Milev, Bek Andersson and Jordan Sullivan, curated by Marlo Kronberg - Rivington Design House via CLIC Gallery, NYC, USA

2012 – AOP Student Awards, Hoxton Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2012 -- Les Recontres d'Arles Photo, presentation with British Journal of Photography, Space 1, Arles, France

2012 – Vogue Italia and Art+Commerce, 10 Corso Como, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy

2012 – «London», Galerie Reitz Stephane Biesenbach, Cologne, Germany

2012 – QUEEN exhibition collaborative project Neutron Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2012 – LIMBO book launch, Paris Photo, Paris, France

2011 – 2012 – International Festival of Photography, Lyon, France

IFA GALLERY

ifa gallery is established by Alexis Kouzmine-Karavaïeff in 2006-2007 in a 700sqm converted textile factory space in Moganshan Road – M50 Creative Centre – Shanghai's contemporary art district. With a quality exhibition programme of principally Chinese contemporary art, and a supporting line-up of performances the gallery contributes to the dynamism of the area. Major exhibitions during that time include the solo shows of Park Sung-Tae (Korea) and sought-after young artist Liu Bolin (China). From summer 2008 to summer 2013, ifa occupies a charming residence built in 1923 for an official of the British Customs House, located in Shanghai at 621 Changde Road (Jing'An district). The gallery offers an innovative and artistic angle to the central part of the city and acted as an artistic meeting point for contemporary art in Shanghai.

Fall 2013, ifa gallery moves its premises to the heart and capital of Europe, Brussels. Located in the old central district of Marolles, the gallery offers a dynamic programme with its main artists from China and new artists from the region. At the meantime, a new exhibition space opens in March 2014 in the district of Jing'An in Shanghai, where ifa gallery continues to showcase some local artists.

ifa gallery exhibits contemporary art from China and Beyond, regardless of artists origin. We represent both established artists such as Dai Guangyu, a leading figure of China's avant-garde, the Gao Brothers and Wu Junyong; as well as emerging artists, including recent graduates of the fine arts schools in Beijing and Hangzhou such as Fan Jiupeng and Li Rui, or foreigners based in China, such as Zane Mellupe from Latvia or Christophe Demaître from Belgium.

CONTACTS

Alexis Kouzmine-Karavaïeff
director
alexis@ifa-gallery.com
+32 485 71 98 51

Angélique Demur
associate director brussels
angelique@ifa-gallery.com
+32 475 86 36 60

ifa gallery • brussels

rue des renards / vossenstraat 28
1000 brussels, belgium
contact@ifa-gallery.com
+32 2 502 40 58

Jessica Quarato
brussels gallery manager
jessica@ifa-gallery.com
+32 474 43 80 15

open from thursdays to sundays • from 10am to 7pm

ifa gallery • shanghai

733 wanhangdu road
shanghai 200040, china
contact@ifa-gallery.com
+86 187 2193 0368

Effie Sui
shanghai gallery manager
effie@ifa-gallery.com

open by appointment

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