

GALERIE LA FOREST DIVONNE

PARIS + BRUSSELS

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BRUXELLES

Elsa & Johanna

Silver Springs

Exhibition

Form September 3 to October 10 2020

Opening

Thursday September 3 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Brussels
Gallery
Weekend



Brussels Gallery Weekend
du 3 au 7 septembre 2020



"Playground", Beyond the shadows, 2018, Semi-matt inkjet print, H 60 x L 90 cm, tirage de 5 ex + 2EA

For Brussels Gallery Weekend 2020, Galerie La Forest Divonne offers an immersion into the universe of Elsa & Johanna, a duo of photographers and directors.

In 2017, freshly graduated from Beaux-Arts and Arts Decoratifs in Paris, the two artists covered a huge wall of the gallery with 36 portraits of young men and women, couples, friends. 36 stories, 36 destinies which they embodied in turn, because the two young women are always the models of their own photos. It's hard to recognize them, however, in this album of a generation entitled «A Couple of Them». They naturally slip under the skin of the characters they create, troublingly real. One would swear to have passed them in the street.

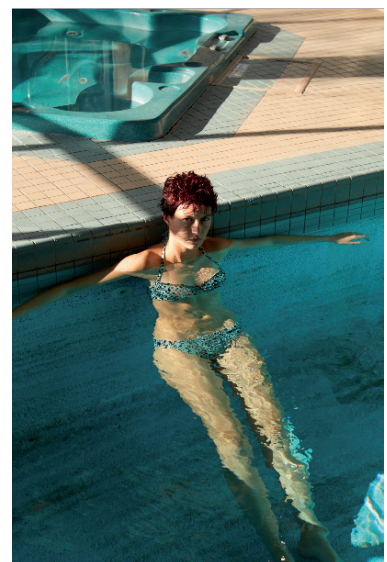


Elsa&Johanna, A couple of them, 36 portraits de 90x63cm, jet d'encre sur papier baryté, 2014-2016.
Vue de l'exposition Kaléidoscope. Courtesy Galerie La Forest Divonne

Elsa & Johanna, return to Brussels with their first solo show in Belgium: “Silver Springs”. This is the name of a residential neighborhood in Calgary, Canada, where in 2018 they created the images they now call «Beyond the shadows». It could be the name of many other North American suburban neighborhoods. Places of expectation and solitude, a set without character one might say, and yet it triggers our imagination and our emotions at first glance.

For this series, Elsa & Johanna are happy to leave the portrait format for a landscape format. While continuing to forge characters, they place more emphasis on «stories»: the ones they imagined when they shot the pictures, but more over the ones we imagine while browsing their photographs. Fragmented stories, we could start with this photo or this one a little further down and build an ever different narrative. Elsa & Johanna thus suggest that there is not a single reality, a single interpretation but as much truths as there are looks. And this conception is embodied in the set up that they offer, which readily alternates formats and heights, like a kaleidoscope view or a burst of memory.

To further blur the lines and complete the immersion in the stories they offer, Elsa & Johanna gladly add to their exhibitions colored carpets, repainted walls, tinted windows or scattered objects, among some vintage furniture. They demonstrated this brilliantly during the Rosarium exhibition, at the Centre Mains d'œuvres, in Saint-Ouen, in Spring 2019. At Galerie La Forest Divonne, a few carpets and furniture interventions will thus reinforce the immersion in « Silver Springs ».



à gauche, Evening Cleaning, 2018, Impression jet d'encre semi-mat, 60x90cm, Edition de 5Ex + 2EA, Courtesy Galerie La Forest Divonne

à droite Blue Lagoonn, 2018, Impression jet d'encre semi-mat, 60x90cm, Edition de 5Ex + 2EA, Courtesy Galerie La Forest Divonne



Elsa & Johanna, *Their Type of Thing I*, 2018, Impression jet d'encre semi-mate, 60x90cm, Edition de 5Ex + 2EA, Courtesy Galerie La Forest Divonne

Johanna Benainous (1991) and Elsa Parra (1990) form a duo of visual artists, photographers and directors. They met at the School of Visual Art in New York and received Laude from the jury of Beaux-Arts de Paris (ENSBA) in 2015. Invited to the Salon de Montrouge in 2016, they are guest artists at the Circulation (s) Festival and at the Saint-Germain Photo Festival in 2017. In 2018, they entered the collections of the City of Paris (Municipal Fund for Contemporary Art), the Palais Galliera (Fashion Museum of the City of Paris) and the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis. In 2019, they won the Public and City Prize at the Hyères International Festival. They are scheduled for the Rencontres d'Arles 2020, as part of the Louis Roederer Discovery Prize, which will finally be presented at the Laennec Chapel (Paris) in November, and at Jimei (China) from November to January.

Their works have been exhibited at the MACVAL (Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val de Marne), the Carlshütte in Büdelsdorf, and the Matildenhoe in Darmstadt, among other institutions. They have been presented at FIAC in 2018 and at Paris Photo in 2019.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020

- PARIS PHOTO NEW YORK, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Pier 94, New York, États-Unis (*postponed*)
- Les Rencontres d'Arles, exposition *Find the truth*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Arles, France (*postponed*)

2019

- PARIS PHOTO, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France.
- Rosarium - C'est le soleil qui finira par nous perdre*, commissariat Ann Stouvenel,
- Mains d'OEuvres, Saint-Ouen, France

2018

- A Cross Perspective*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris, France

2017

- Le Reflet de la cuillère*, Espace des femmes, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris, France
- Los Ojos Vendados*, Etro, Saint-Germain, Paris, France

2015

- A Couple of Them*, Beaux-arts de Paris, France

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2020

- PARIS PHOTO, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France.
- Art Paris Art Fair, dans le parcours «*Un regard sur la scène française*», sous la direction artistique de Gaël Charbau, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- Staging Identity*, Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Allemagne

2019

- Some of us*, commissariat Jérôme Cotinet-Alphaize, Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Allemagne
- Festival International de Journalisme, Couthures-sur-Garonne, France
- 34ème Festival International de Photographie de Hyères, Villa Noailles, France
- Qu'est-ce que tu regardes ?* Espace Beaurepaire, Paris, France
- Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- Lignes de vies*, une exposition de légendes, commissariat Franck Lamy, Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne (MAC / VAL), Vitry-sur-Seine, France

-100% L'Expo - *Sorties d'écoles*, Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, France

-*POSTURES - La figure seule*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique

2018

- FIAC 2018 - stand du FMAC, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 30 ans - Anniversaire de la Galerie La Forest Divonne*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- Prix Picto de la mode, Palais Galliera, Paris, France
- Les Apparences*, La Graineterie, Houilles, France
- L'homme qui marchait dans la couleur*, Galerie du Crous, Paris, France

-*La figure seule*, Château de Poncé, Poncé, France

-*Millennials au féminin*, Galerie Havas, Puteaux, France

-*Le redoublement*, Artinkk, Bruxelles, Belgique

-*Profils*, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art Henri Molina, Colomiers, France

2017

-*Kaléidoscope*, commissariat Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique

-*Morceaux choisis*, commissariat Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique

-La Galerie du Club des AD, Arles, France
Jeune création 67, Paris, France

-*Ubique, les vacances immobiles*, Glassbox, Paris, France

-*Proyecta, Imaginando otros posibles*, commissariat Sandra Maunac, Madrid, Espagne

-*Le quatrième sexe*, commissariat Marie Maertens, Espace Coeur, Paris, France

-*Festival Circulation(s) #7*, le Centquatre, Paris, France

2016

-*Une inconnue d'avance*, commissariat Gaël Charbau, Villa Emerige, Paris, France

-*Felicità*, commissariat Alexia Fabre, Palais des beaux-arts, Paris, France

-*Dress codes*, commissariat Alexandra- Dhainaut, Mains d'OEuvre, Saint-Ouen, France

-Parcours Saint-Germain, Le Mont St Michel, Paris, France

-*Vertige en terrain plat*, commissariat «*Mathilde s'expose*», Fondation Brownstone, Paris, France

-*Salon de Montrouge #61*, commissariat Ami Barrack, Beffroi de Montrouge, France

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

2018

- FMAC (Fond municipal d'art contemporain de la Ville de Paris), France
- Palais Galliera (Musée de la mode de la Ville de Paris), France
- Collection départementale d'art contemporain de Seine Saint-Denis, France

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

2019

- Lauréates du Prix du Public du 34e Festival International de Hyères

2017

- 2e prix « Prix Picto de la mode 2017 »
- Carte blanche « Etro »
- Sélectionnées pour les visuels officiels du « Festival Photo Saint-Germain »
- Sélectionnées par « La Galerie du club des AD 2017 »
- Invitées au « Festival Circulation(s) 2017 »

2016

- Nominées pour « Bourse Révélation Emerige »
- Nominées pour « 61e Salon de Montrouge »
- Finalistes pour « Prix HSBC pour la photographie »

RESIDENCY

2018-2019

- Centre d'art Mains d'Œuvres, Saint-Ouen, Paris, France

INTERVIEWS (selection)

- Saywho par Marie Maertens
- Made in Mind Magazine par Flavia Rovetta
- Les Inrockuptibles par Ingrid Luquet-Gad
- France Culture par Aude Lavigne
- L'Officiel par Felix Besson
- Fisheye Magazine par Marie Moglia

PRESS

- 9 Lives par Pascal Therme
- The Art Newspaper par Alain Berlan
- Libération par Jérémy Piette
- IDEAT par Béatrice Andrieux
- Stylist par Stéphane Durand
- Slash Paris par Guillaume Benoît
- Libération par Jérémy Piette
- LensCulture by Alexander Strecker
- Télérama Sortir par Frédérique Chapuis
- Libération par Clémentine Mercier
- L'OEil de la photographie par Jonas Cuénin

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