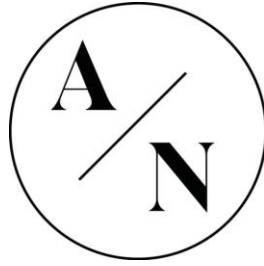


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SHADOWS IN PARADISE: MARIANNA ROTHEN AT THE LITTLE BLACK
GALLERY, JAN 23rd – FEB 24th

By After Nyne, November 21, 2017



Chelsea's The Little Black Gallery are to hold the first solo exhibition of the work of Marianna Rothen.

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The characters of *Shadows in Paradise* are portrayed by Rothen herself and by her models/muses/friends. The photographs were made in Rothen's home in upstate New York, shot both in 2015 when the house was in a decrepit, nearly abandoned state, and then in the summer of 2016 after obsessive renovations.

Carlo McCormick writes in the book introduction: "We know this place; it is the landscape of what has been lost and the broken ground upon which the forgotten grows.... It is not a destination but a sidetrack of indeterminateness, it is a borderline Rothen does not so much cross as trace like a caregiver's loving caress along the ridge of an accustomed scar. Marianna occupies these pictures like an unspoken kindness, the company and comfort we keep when we are alone and frightened of this world, and wherever she may be here, in the frame or behind the camera, she is never quite grounded or solid but hovering, ethereal and translucent, as much feeling as fact."

The photographs in *Shadows in Paradise* reference three films: Ingmar Bergman's *Persona*, Robert Altman's *Three Women* and David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*. In Rothen's female-helmed dream world her characters find themselves and lose themselves. These images portray characters that debuted in Rothen's 2014 book *Snow and Rose & Other Tales*. When we last saw Rothen's women they were dancing exuberantly in the nude, celebrating their male-free utopia. Now we see them struggling to stay connected to their idealized notions of self, coping with their shattered illusions, falling deeper into derangement. This new series explores life after happiness, after you get everything you want but nothing is as planned. It asks what it means to be a woman among women in a world where men are banished yet lurking.

Rothen creates her work with a complex alternation of analog and digital processes. Her subjects are captured digitally, then re-photographed onto Polaroid film which is digitally scanned and digitally printed for exhibition. Thus Rothen creates a unique retrograde cinematic tonality in her pictures.

Marianna Rothen (b. 1982 in Canada) lives in New York City. After becoming a fashion model at age 15, Marianna spent several years travelling, working and documenting her experiences through photographs. Since 2007 her work has been exhibited internationally in New York, Paris, Sydney, Cologne and Istanbul. This is her first solo London show. Her first monograph *Snow and Rose & Other Tales* was published by b.frank books in 2014.