

UNNATURAL SELECTION:
NINE FEMALE ARTISTS RESPOND TO THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF
BRAD FEUERHELM



Opening: 26 Sept, 3-5pm

26 - 29 Sept 2013

12am - 8pm

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MCTheater
Polonceaukade 5
1014 DA Amsterdam

*"... collecting is an obsession, an occupation, a disease, an addiction, a fascination, an absurdity, a fate.
It is not a hobby. Those who do it must do it.
Those who do not do it think of it as a cousin of stamp collecting, a sister of the trophy cabinet,
bastard of a sound bank account and a weak mind."*

Jeanette Winterson

This exhibition sees nine contemporary female artists delve into photography collector, dealer and writer Brad Feuerhelm's personal collection of peculiar documents. Either by directly re-using, appropriating or re-engaging images; or by selecting their own previously made work that shares an oblique stylistic relationship with the collection, all the images displayed here attest to the seemingly endless and potent lure of the vernacular and its relationship to contemporary photographic practice.

Quite unusual, and continuing on from a number of other exhibitions Feuerhelm has initiated, this display pairs the vintage with the contemporary – incorporating various historical references into one exhibition. A sense of the present cloaks a warped and distant history of photography. Often morbid, ominous but always highly intriguing, Feuerhelm's collection is a unique body of photographs collected over a 15 years period. Ranging from 19th century prints of opium smokers; beheadings in China; Carte de Visite's of the most peculiarly dressed Victorians; overgrown and disordered hair or key pictures from notable photographers, the fundamental logic to the collection is that it represents things that are out of the ordinary, bizarre or distinct.

Daniel Campbell Blight

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CRISTINA DE MIDDEL



Drawing on Paper
from Carte de Visite's photographs
2013
Collection Brad Feuerhelm



Drawing on Paper
from Carte de Visite's photographs
2013
Collection Brad Feuerhelm

TEREZA ZELENKOVA



Table Rappers
Gelatin Silver Photograph
Edition 1/5
Collection Brad Feuerhelm

ALIS PELLISCHI



3D Babe
C-type archival print, and digital gif
2013
Collection of Brad Feuerhelm

3D Babe
C-type archival print, and digital gif
2013
Collection of Brad Feuerhelm

EVA STENRAM



Drape (BF1)
C-Type Lambda Print
Edition 1/5
Collection Brad Feuerhelm

MAGDA HUECKEL



Anima | Sacrum III # 8, Benin
2013

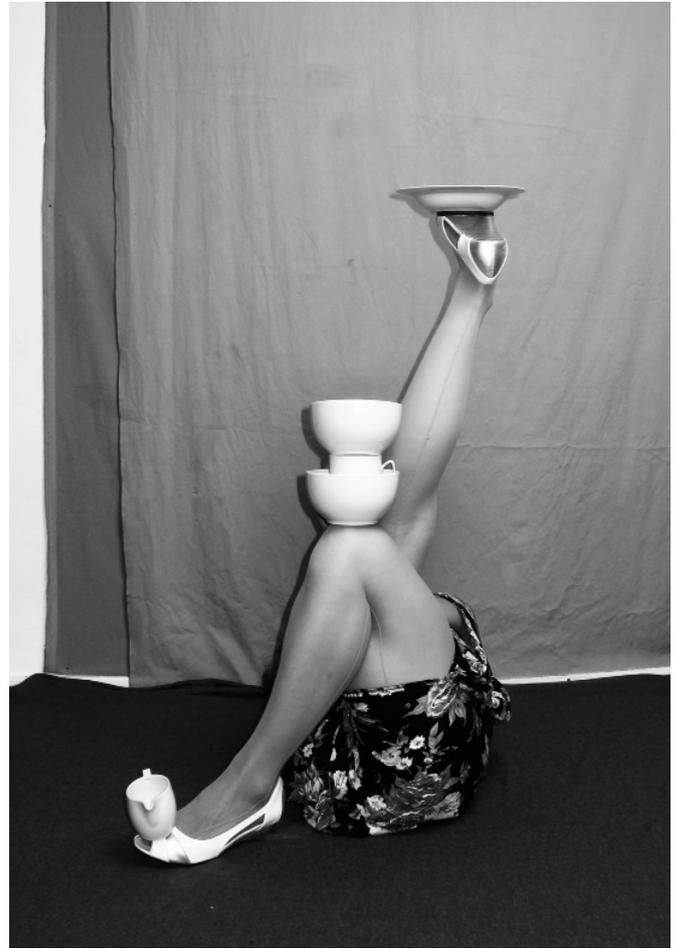
B&W photography, pigment prints on archival paper Hahnemühle Museum Etching 350 g
Collection Brad Feuerhelm



Anima | Sacrum II # 11, Algeria
2010

B&W photography, pigment prints on archival paper Hahnemühle Museum Etching 350 g
Collection Brad Feuerhelm

ISABELLE WENZEL



Position_6_W_2013
Inkjet Print Photo Rag 300g
126,56 x 95 cm
Edition 3
Collection of Brad Feuerhelm

Position_14_2.1_W_2013
Inkjet Print Photo Rag 300g
121,13 x 95 cm
Edition 3
Collection of Brad Feuerhelm

STEFFI KLENZ



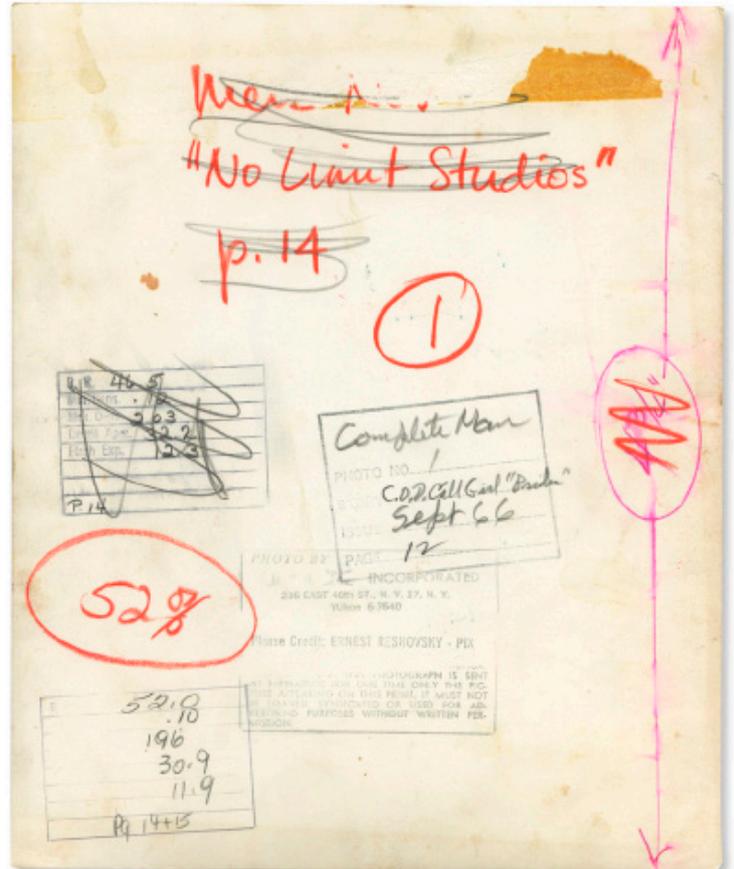
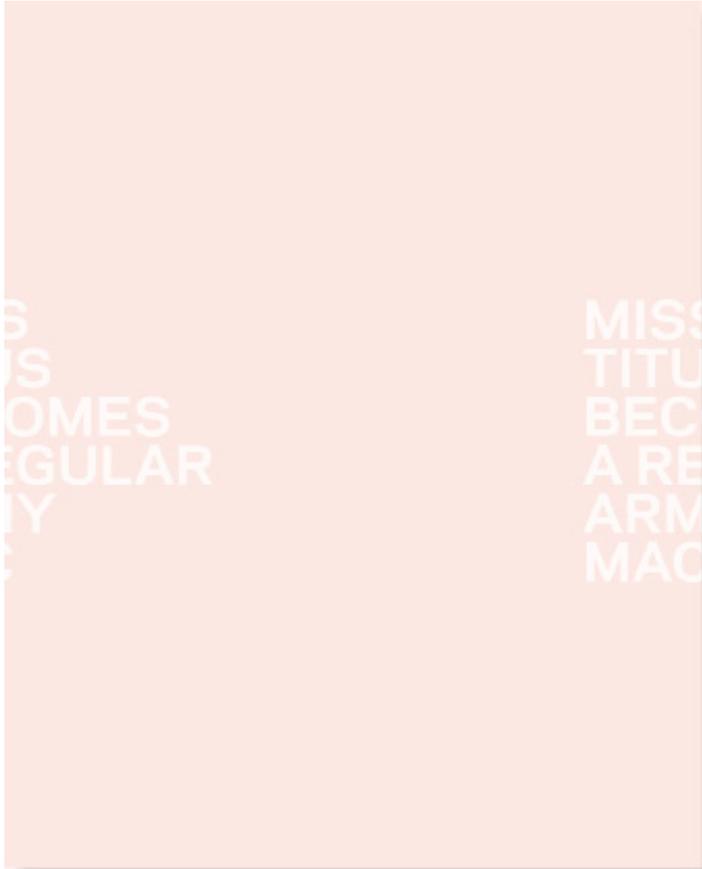
Still Image from 'Beun (Prospect 1)', 2013,
Single Channel Installation,
HD Video Projection on Graphite, 5.13 minutes
Collection of Brad Feuerhelm

MEMYMOM



The Backyard
from The Patient series
2012
Collection Brad Feuerhelm

MELINDA GIBSON



"Miss Titus Becomes A Regular Army Mac"
Performative Zine
Edition of 100
Collection Brad Feuerhelm

BIOGRAPHIES

Cristina de Middel (b. 1975, Spain) holds an MA Photography from University of Oklahoma (2000), an MA Fine Arts from University of Valencia, Spain (2001), and a postgraduate degree in Photojournalism from Universitat Politècnica de Barcelona, Spain (2002). She was a finalist at the Deutsche Borse photography prize 2013 for her publication *The Afronauts*. In addition to her personal projects, De Middel has worked for various publications and participated in several competitions.

Cristina is a freelance photographer based in London and won the ICP award for publication this year. She has made a series of 14 drawings based on the collection.

Melinda Gibson was born in 1985 in the UK, and currently lives and works in London. She studied for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Photography at the London College of Communication. Melinda has exhibited internationally with exhibitions at The Dong Gang Museum of Photography (South Korea), ACP, (Sydney), PICA, (Perth), Houston Centre of Photography (USA), Centro del arte Contemporáneo de Cadiz (Spain), Flowers Gallery (UK) as well as shows throughout Europe. She has been published in numerous publications, online and in print which include MB! Magazine by Mercedes Benz, NOWNESS.COM, AnOther Magazine, Harpers Bazaar, Marie Claire, Objektiv, Material Girl, FOAM magazine, 1000 Words Photography magazine. Melinda's first publication, "The Photograph as Contemporary Art" was chosen as 1 of the Best Books of 2012 by Photo-eye and she is part of the Jury for the Unseen Dummy Award 2013. In 2010, she was 1 of the 15 winners of the annual Talent Call by FOAM magazine and 1 of the UK winners of the Magenta Foundation Emerging Photographers Award. Her primary interests lie within the shifting boundaries of the photographic medium and how imagery is received and understood within its contextual surroundings. Using experimental techniques, she explores, examines and questions existing theories and codes of practice within the medium, pushing the boundaries of what really constitutes 'seeing'.

Melinda in collaboration with Kummer & Herrman will present their new publication, "Miss Titus Becomes A Regular Army Mac", published by b.frank books, as both an installation at the fair as well as a live book-making performance, exploring the notion of contemporary publications and the personal collection.

Magda Hueckel (1978) Visual artist, theatrical photographer, stage designer, traveler.

Graduate of the Painting and Graphic Arts Department of the Gdańsk Academy of Fine Arts. She studied at Vysoka Skola Výtvarných Umení in Bratislava (Slovakia) and Schule für Gestaltung in St.Gallen (Switzerland). Holder of the scholarship of the town of Sopot in 2001. In 2002 she founded the photography duo hueckelserafin (with Agata Serafin), which received „Sopocka Muza dla Młodych Twórców” award from the President of Sopot. In 2009 she received the Scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. Since 2002 she has cooperated with Tomasz Śliwiński in photography and film production (the film "Our Curse" was officially selected in Locarno Festival 2013). She collaborates with Krzysztof Warlikowski's Nowy Teatr; she's associated with the Piekary Gallery (Poland), Wanted Paris (France) and Millenium Agency (UK). She took part in many group and individual exhibitions in Poland and abroad, including Tate Britain Gallery (2010, UK), Unseen Photo Fair (2013, Holland), XIX International Contemporary Art Fair (2010, Spain), Vienna Fair (2010, Austria), Art Vilnius (2009, Lithuania), Voies Off (2009, France), Rencontres Photographiques de Montpellier (2009, France), Biennale of Photography (2011, 2009, Poland), Fotonoviembre (2005, Tenerife), Month of Photography in Bratislava (2005, Slovakia), Month of Photography in Krakow (2006, 2003, Poland), Photofestival in Łódź (2011, Poland), Daylesford Foto Biennale (2004, Australia) and many others.

Her works are in numerous collections of photographs and fine art.

Currently she lives and works in Warsaw.

"ANIMA. Images from Africa." The cycle is a personal story about a journey. The images, which make up a cycle, show reality from the perspective of a Traveler, who, by penetrating the strange and incomprehensible world of Africa, tries to uncover universal truths about life, death, rebirth and transformation. The pictures were taken between 2005 and 2013 during numerous trips by Magda Hueckel and Tomasz Śliwiński to Africa (spanning such countries as Algeria, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Republic of South Africa, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda).

Steffi Klenz' photographic practice is fundamentally concerned with challenging conventional conceptions of architecture and our built environment. One might refer to the discipline of architecture as functional, rational and grounded but Klenz' practice views the representation of space in an antithetical manner and rather engages with the space in question as a location for transition and transformation.

Klenz was born in Rostock, Germany, and currently lives and works in London. She completed her MA in photography at the Royal College of Art in 2005 and since has exhibited nationally as well as internationally at The Finish Museum of Photography in Helsinki, The Museum Künstlerkolonie in Darmstadt, The New Art Gallery in Walsall, The Stanley Picker Gallery in London and the Goethe Institute in Glasgow. In 2013, she exhibited her work at the Museum Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin and is currently taking part in the X-Border Art Biennale in Luleå, Sweden.

For her new works 'Beun', Klenz worked directly with the collection, choosing photographs of a concentration camp and a prisoner war camp. Struggling with questions of reference and representation, Klenz constructed life-size architectural frameworks in the studio following the exact same spatial arrangements and dimensions of the original archive images.

Memymom is a collaboration between two artists, a mother (Marilene Coolens) and her daughter (Lisa de Boeck). Two self-taught photographers who work and live in Brussels, Belgium. 'The cross-generational project began with what the pair describes as a 'The Umbilical Vein'. They are referring to analogue image archives of Marilene encouraging Lisa to express herself and to invent her own improvised theatre sketches. These semi-staged dreamscape portraits developed into a mature conversation that deals not only with personal identity, potential and a maternal relationship, but has evolved into a plea for sensual analysis and tragic romanticism. It reveals both the foundations of the close mother-daughter bond and the professional career of this artistic duo, who have worked together under the moniker Memymom since 2004.

The rough analogue images of a past era form a source of inspiration for the artists' current work which produces an emotional aesthetics that stops just short of the erotic; inventing mystery, exercising intimacy and creating a post-modern hyperlinked narrative where anything might unfold. Exposing the desire to create a life embellished beyond our own harsh realities and juxtapose those tales against reality.

Marilène Coolens (1953) and Lisa De Boeck (1985) have previously exhibited in Germany, Spain and Belgium. This summer they were part of Watou Art Festival and they are invited at The Flemish Arts Center 'De Brakke Grond' for a solo exhibition of their analogue image archive in Amsterdam. The mother-daughter relationship means Memymom can often work in a highly intuitive manner that allows the results to emerge naturally, even almost automatically.

Exhibitions: De Brakke Grond - Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2013 / Watou Art Festival - Watou, Belgium 2013 / Air Antwerp 'Open Air#6' - Antwerp, Belgium 2013 / Start Fotorama Window project - Wevelgem, Belgium 2013 / Recyclart Art Center - Brussels, Belgium 2013 / Experimentobio2012 - Bilbao, Spain 2012 /

Alis Pelleschi (b. 1988, Bradford) is a London-based photographer, director and designer. She holds a BA (Hons) Visual Communication (Photography) from Birmingham City University (2010). Her clients include Logo. Ec, Kokontozai, MTV, Ministry of Sound and she has been published in I-D, Super Super, Bullett, Wad, Notion and Vice. Finalist winner for Fresh Faced & Wild Eyed Photographer's Gallery competition (2011). Alis will be making multi-media works based on femininity in the commercialization of the body in contemporary society. '3D BABE' shows the possibilities of becoming a real life 3D BABE, which were once only possible to create in a virtual world.

Eva Stenram brings together analogical archival material and digital manipulation, creating scenarios where the uncanny takes centre stage. Stenram often uses found images, such as negatives, magazines and images from the Internet, as her source of inspiration and working material. These are scanned or downloaded to digital files that the artist manipulates, reinterpreting at each time the image anew.

Eva was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and currently lives and works in London where she graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2003. In 2012, Stenram was nominated for Les Rencontres d'Arles Discovery Award. In 2013, Stenram has solo exhibitions at Ravestijn Gallery (Amsterdam) and Open Eye Gallery (Liverpool), and Pobeda Gallery (Moscow). She was selected as a finalist in the Hyères International Photography Competition as well as the Aperture Portfolio Prize and is the first prize winner of the inaugural Cord Prize.

Eva will present a continuation of two of her current series, Drape and Parts, using images from the collection

Isabelle Wenzel (b. 1982, Wuppertal) lives and works in Amsterdam. She studied photography from 2008 - 2010 at the Gerrit Rietveld Akademy in Amsterdam. Since then she received several grants like the European Photo Exhibition Award from the Körber-Stiftung Hamburg in 2011 and from the Mondriaan Fonds in 2013 amongst others. Her work has been widely exhibited in national and international solo and group shows. She confronts the visitor with partly surreal and partly dynamic studies of the human body. They show cropped sections of a performance created especially for the camera. Her main emphasis is on the photographs' performative and sculptural aspects. The result is images that depict an explicitly created and staged world in which Wenzel takes the stage as photographer, model, sculpture and, in the final instance, as viewer, too. All three levels meld here into one new medium. Isabelle will be creating performative works based on the photography in the collection.

Tereza Zelenkova (b. 1985, Czech Republic) is an artist who works predominantly with black and white photography, creating series based on ephemeral and poetic relationships between the individual images. Her work often enquires about the possibility of myth within the rationally structured modern world. She received her MA in Photography from the Royal College of Art in London in 2012. She is a recipient of the 1000 Words Magazine Award 2012, she was shortlisted for the Saatchi New Sensations 2012 award, and was finalist of Fresh Faced & Wild Eyed 2011 awarded by The Photographer's Gallery in London. She has self-published several books and *Index of Time* (2012) was selected as one of the best books of 2012 by Photo-Eye. In 2011, Mörel Books published *Supreme Vice*. Her work is in collections such as the Saatchi Gallery, Fotomuseum Winterthur, and Brad Feuerhelm's collection. She has exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide, most recently at the Belfast Exposed (Belfast, UK), Lianzhou Foto festival (Lianzhou, China), and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (Perth, AU). Her solo show, *The Absence of Myth*, will open at Legion TV in London in October 2013.