

I Called Her Lisa Marie

Clémentine Schneidermann

Opening: Friday 15.4. 2016 5-8pm

Duration: 16.4 – 14.5 2016

"I Called Here Lisa Marie" is the first solo show in Galleri Tom Christoffersen by the young French photographer Clémentine Schneidermann. During her studies at the University of South Wales in Newport, she discovers the annual Elvis festival in the small town of Porthcawl and starts portraying the participants. She catches them "back-stage" at the pub performing "Suspicious Minds", or she is invited to their homes and captures them in their own private Elvis-sphere. From then on, the series progresses with similar "studies" of fans in Memphis, in and around Elvis' own home, Graceland. And last year she went to Randers in Denmark, where the myth of the King takes shape as an exact copy of Graceland amidst motorway exits and shopping malls. Her visit engendered the portrait "Waitress", focusing on a downspout, a sixties style waitress dress and a pair of flat shoes. At first glance a tired facade, not really maintaining any idea of grace or glamour, but in the anonymization it becomes a gentle and humorous portrait.

Insisting on that there is lurking small and flaky stories under the surface of every subject, Clémentine Schneidermann conveys their poetical and intimate moments in her pictures. It appears in the melancholic expressions of the extravagantly dressed Elvis fans, who she has portrayed the last 3 years in Wales. She captures them in their attempt to escape their, usually trivial, daily life, in which futile unemployment is the reality, and where they live out the dream through the myth. The pictures are in between fiction and reality, as well as mysterious and almost surreal. The common characters seem estranged in their Elvis look-a-like poses, almost to them self too, but Clémentine Schneidermann's manages to penetrate the facade and make them incredibly present as who they are.

Clémentine Schneidermann (b.1991) graduated in 2014 as master in documentary photography from University of South Wales, New Port. As young as 17 year old, she started her photography career by moving to Switzerland to study at the applied art school of Vevey. Schneidermann has won numerous awards, a.o. Magnum Photos "30 under 30" in 2015, and has been envisioned as one of our period's most talented young photographers by New York Times, and "Steve in his Bedroom" was showed in their printed edition. Works from the series "I Called Her Lisa Marie" are acquired by the National museum of photography, Copenhagen, DK.

Selected exhibitions: *I called her Lisa-Marie*, Kickplate Gallery, Abertillery, UK 2015. *Diffusion festival*, Looking at America, Cardiff, UK, 2015. *30 under 30*, The Photography Show, Birmingham, UK, 2015. *SFR Jeunes Talents*, Paris Photo, FR, 2014. *Street photography*, Source Display, Tate Britain, London UK, 2014. Ideastap/Magnum Photos finalist show, *Truman Brewery*, Londres UK, 2014.

She has been on residencies and worked on projects in Spain, Greece, Germany, England and in the USA. She currently lives in London and Paris.

