

THE NUDE MALE

18 – 20th March 2015

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Curated by Julie Cook and Nerys Mathias

SARAH AINSLIE, LAURE ALBIN GUILLOT,
JULIE COOK, KATINKA GOLDBERG,
ROSIE GUNN, ALEXIS HUNTER,
MINNA KANTONEN, NERYS MATHIAS,
EMMA McGUIRE, DEVA NICOLETTA TORTONE



SARAH AINSLIE

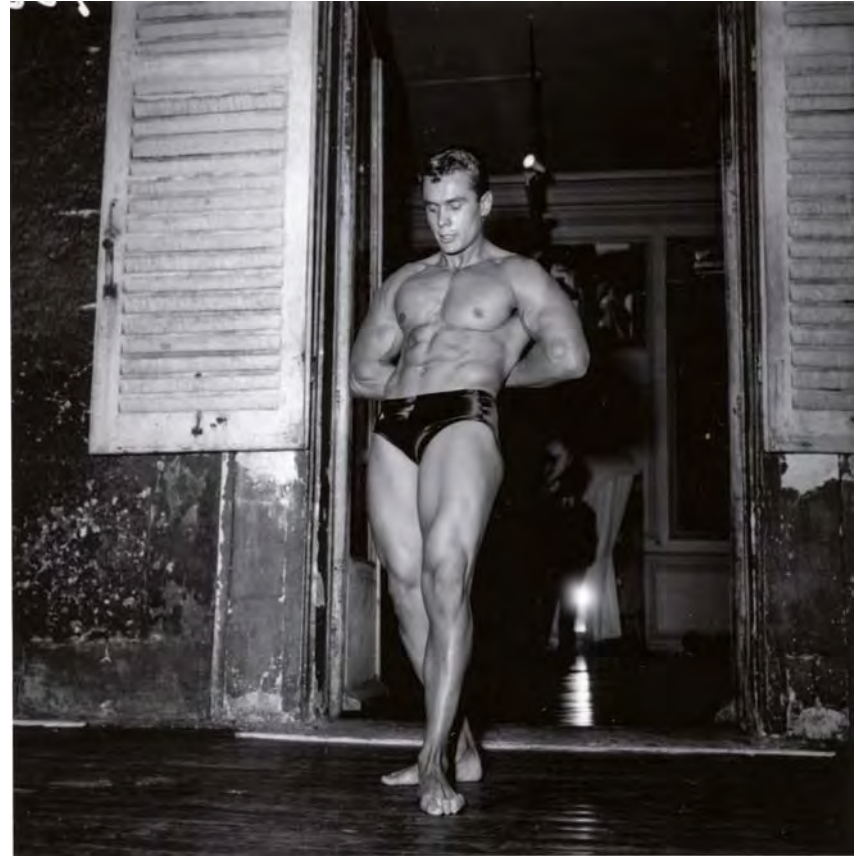
Body Builders

Sarah Ainslie works as a photographer in the East End and is fascinated by notions of transformation creatively expressed through the body. This collection of photographs of body builders, originally photographed in America during the 50s, were found by Sarah on a stall in Brick Lane market, London in the 1980s.

She reprinted these pictures from the original negatives and returned the originals to the stallholder! In America in the 1950s publications such as *Physique Pictorial* showcased a generation of male pinups and bodybuilders as the most openly gay images available in America at the time.

Sarah Ainslie lives and works in London.

SILVER BROMIDE PRINTS, FRAMED



JULIE COOK

20 Million Things To Do

For over 20 years Julie Cook has engaged with the issue of voyeurism within personal and public spaces of the city. A lot of her work has been collaborative; with the subjects themselves and often with her husband, Paul Davies, an architect. He is photographed here within their personal living space while traveling in Germany.

It is often the fragility of the contemporary human experience that interests Julie Cook, the growth of the city and the global consequences of development are incontrovertibly linked in this installation.

20 Million Things to Do takes its title from the Lowell George song.

Julie Cook lives and works in London and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of East London

C-TYPE PRINTS, MDF MOUNTED AND DIGITAL PRINTS, UNMOUNTED





KATINKA GOLDBERG

Bristningar

Katinka Goldberg is an artist working with photography and collage. On the verge between different mediums; photography, collage and modernistic painting, she finds a productive contradiction and a tension. This is applied to visualise the complexity of intimate relationships.

The ongoing project *Bristningar* consists of collages of distorted bodies with elements of three-dimensional objects. Shapes collide on the border between sculpture and photography. Goldberg uses the amputated and then reconstructed body, as a way to visualise a fragmented identity. She is trying to answer the question, how much can you take away of yourself without disappearing? How close can you get before the closeness becomes a distance?

Katinka Goldberg is originally from Sweden, but is currently based in Norway.

DIGITAL PRINTS ON SILK CREPE FABRIC

LAURE ALBIN GUILLOT

Étude de Nu, 1939

Laure Albin Guillot was a prolific French photographer (1879–1962) who crossed genres such as fashion, portraits and nudes to landscapes, still lifes and journalism. Her work was frequently published in the press while she participated in solo and collective exhibitions at home and abroad.

She travelled widely to North Africa, Spain, Italy, Sweden and the United States. In 1937 she organised the exhibition *Femmes Artistes d'Europe*. A master of technology, she made use of the very latest methods of image production. Relatively unknown, her career and life is inspirational even without considering the times she lived in.

DIGITAL PRINT SCANNED FROM THE ORIGINAL, FRAMED



MINNA KANTONEN

Midsummer

“All photographs are memento mori. To take a photograph is to participate in another person’s (or thing’s) mortality, vulnerability, mutability. Precisely by slicing out this moment and freezing it, all photographs testify to time’s relentless melt.” *Susan Sontag (1973)*

Minna Kantonen’s Finnish background has influenced her work that looks at nature both within the natural environment and within cities. It is customary for the Finns to celebrate the longest day of the year by lighting bonfires and socialising, usually including a lake and a sauna. These images were taken during a summer solstice with her uncle and his extended family in mid-Finland. The photographs, originally taken as family snapshots, are memory of a time that has passed and recognition of the simplicity and easiness of nudity and youth.

Minna Kantonen lives and works in London and is a Principal Lecturer at the University of East London.

C-TYPE PRINTS, FRAMED

EMMA MCGUIRE

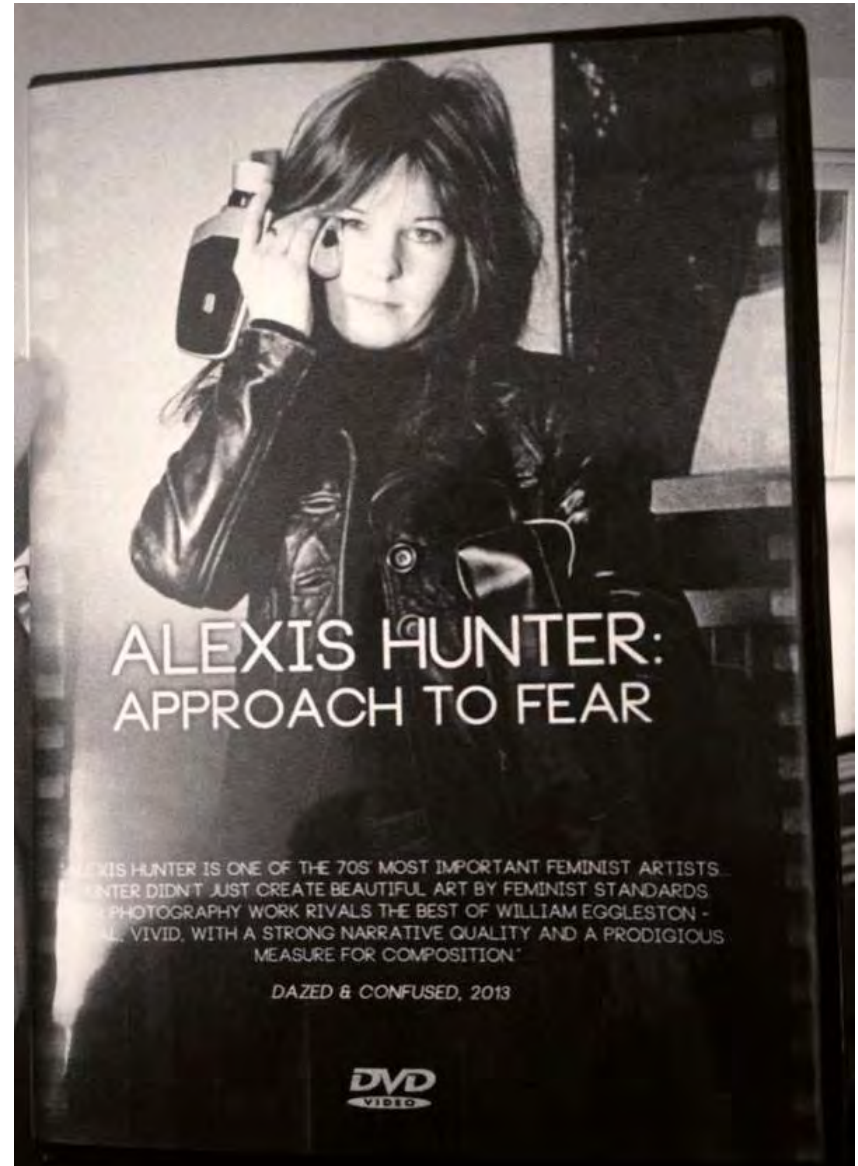
The Raft

Emma McGuire’s work examines systems of identity both male and female. Coming from a very political and diverse family (her mother is American and her father is Gypsy), the cultural melting pot that she grew up in touches everything in her work. Since Graduating from the RCA in 2005 Emma McGuire has split her time between London and New York - her heart is somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic.

The body and it’s representation both veiled and unveiled is seen in the series *The Raft*. In this film she challenges the cultural notion of race and masculinity while poking fun at the importance placed on the superficial layer. The viewer is asked to imagine whether or not the body underneath the visible surface is real or sculpted. Emma McGuire’s interest is in the grey areas of human nature: imperfections, vulnerabilities and contradictions.

Emma McGuire lives and works in London.

VIDEO, 6 MINUTES



NERYS MATHIAS

Eye Roll

Nerys Mathias is an artist who works with a male muse: her husband. The photographs lift a lantern on her domestic world, her subject matter the everyday complexities within a heterosexual relationship. As well as the intimate images of her husband, the art practice explores sexual pleasure, gesture, and the contradicting emotions of ageing.

Her practice grew from a desire to put her gaze in the canon of art history and expose the difference. Her strong gaze is intimate, an ocular caress yet alongside this visual pleasure her images reveal and question the physical and psychological distance between the artist and the subject, the image and the viewer.

Nerys Mathias was born in Wales and lives in London. Currently undertaking a Professional Doctorate in Fine Art at UEL, Nerys has exhibited within the U.K and internationally.

C-TYPE PRINT, ACRYLIC MOUNTED, FRAMED

DEVA NICOLETTA TORTONE

Untitled Men

Imagine that each of my images is like a chapter in a story – where there is past and future, emotion and pain, love and fear, reality and dream, sensuality and flesh.

In the beginning we live these stories, following our instinctive feelings. Then we talk about them, and then we write and make images about them.

All my images have these internal narratives.

Each one is like a book without words – just flesh and voice, memory and love.

Deva Nicoletta Tortone lives and works in Albenga, Italy

C-TYPE PRINTS, UNMOUNTED





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