

PRESS RELEASE

# TANYA MARCUSE

## *Undergarments & Armor*

Exhibition from 17 November 2022 to 18 February 2023



## PRESS RELEASE

Galerie Miranda is delighted to present, for the first time in France, the beautiful and fascinating series *Undergarments & Armor* by NYC-based artist Tanya Marcuse, made in 2002-3 with the support of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The artist anchors the project in typological foundations, formally expressed with highly precise yet sensual black & white pigment prints. The complete series of *Undergarments & Armor* was first exhibited in Northern Ireland at Belfast Exposed gallery. The series has also featured at the triennial of photography and video called *Dress Codes* at the International Center for Photography (New York) and in *Love and War* at the Museum of the Fashion Institute of Technology (New York). A lavish 3-volume slipcased monograph of the series was published by Nazraeli Press in 2005 with an essay by Valerie Steele, chief curator and acting director of The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

"I traveled to archives and museums in the U.S. and England photographing undergarments, armor, and the museum forms that populate the storerooms -- objects like breastplates, helmets, corsets, bustles, mannequins and dress forms. The earliest objects date to the 14th century while no object is dated past 1900, ruling out the possibility of a living owner. I see these garments and suits of armor as sculptures of the body that, like a carapace, outlast their wearers. These personal effects adorned, constricted and protected the body all at once. Now they are archived as artistic and cultural artifacts, shells of the bodies that once inhabited them. The project extends my long standing interest in sculpture and the body, presence and absence. While visual and conceptual dichotomies are clearly present in the relationship between the undergarments and armor (male/female, hard/soft, outside/inside, armed/disarmed), no one simple reading is possible. A bustle is an industrial contraption, while a breastplate is delicately adorned. In the 14th century the term corset was used to refer to a breastplate as worn by a soldier. And though one might expect the feminine undergarments to be alluring, they often appear clinical, even dingy, divorced from the body's lingering presence. On the other hand the armor often conveys an aggressive sexuality, both gorgeous and cruel. Yet in both cases the garments are transformative. The undergarments enhance and constrict the body to support the fashion of the outer dress; the armor shields the body's mortal flesh, while concurrently turning its wearer into a terrifying war machine." ----- Tanya Marcuse

### Artist biography

Tanya Marcuse (b.1964) began making photographs as an early college student at Bard College at Simon's Rock. She went on to study Art History and Studio Art at Oberlin and earned her MFA from Yale. Her photographs are in many collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the George Eastman Museum. In 2002, she received a Guggenheim fellowship to pursue her project *Undergarments & Armor*. In 2005, she embarked on a three part, fourteen year project, *Fruitless / Fallen / Woven*. Fueled by the Biblical narrative of the fall from Eden, these related projects use increasingly fantastical imagery and more elaborate methods of construction to explore cycles of growth and decay and the dynamic tension between the passage of time and the photographic medium. Tanya's books include *Undergarments and Armor* (Nazraeli Press, 2005), *Wax Bodies*, (Nazraeli Press, 2012), *Fruitless / Fallen / Woven* (Radius Press, 2019) and *INK* (Fall Line Press, 2021). She teaches Photography at Bard College, NY.

Artist website: <http://tanyamarcuse.com/>

PRESS VISUALS

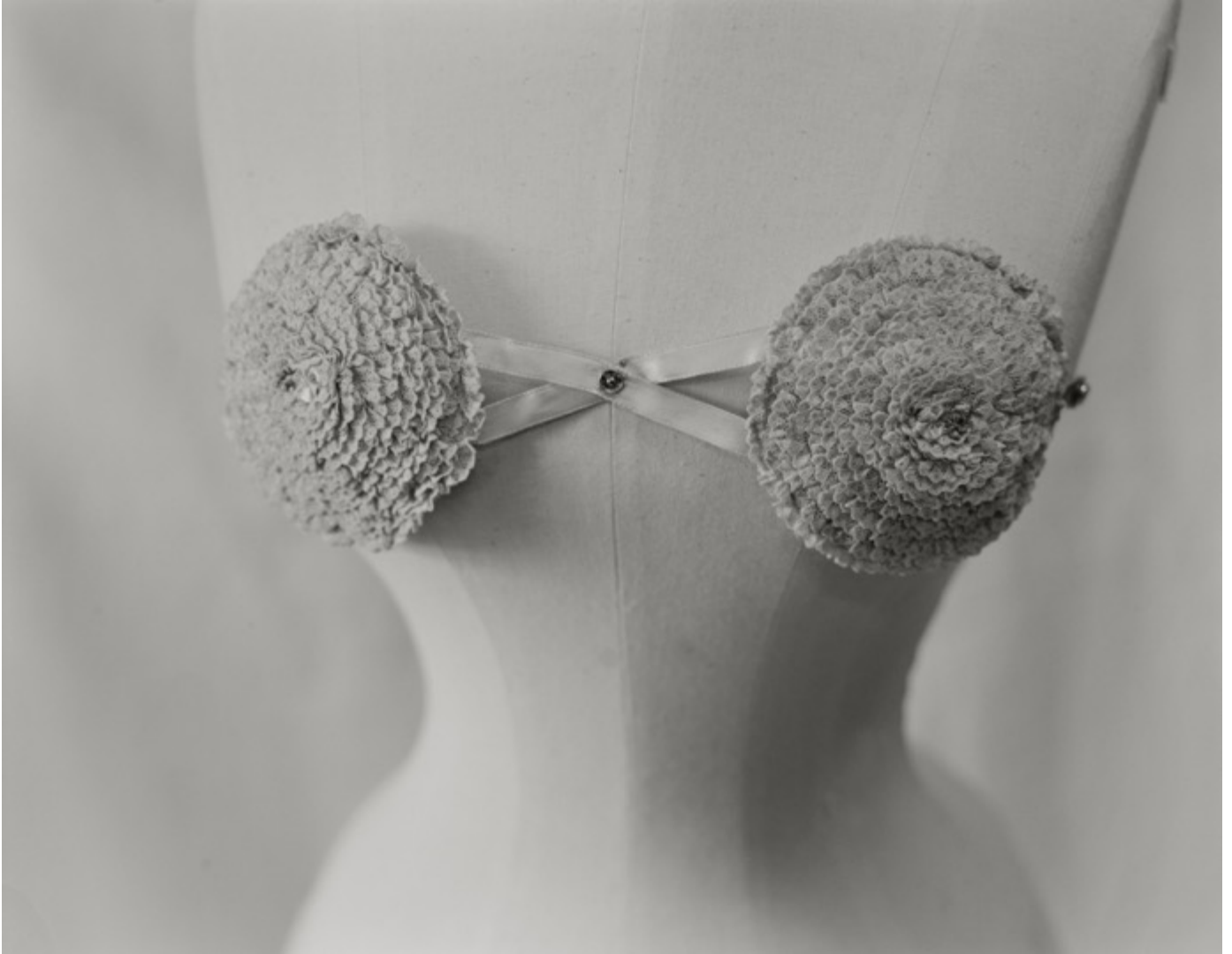
UNDERGARMENTS



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Collapsible Bustle 1880's, American*  
The Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Layered Bustle c. 1873, Austria*  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Floral Bust Enhancer, 1938, England*  
Gallery of English Costume, Manchester, England  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Corset with Silk Ribbon 1880's*  
Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Wooden Corset 17th century*  
Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Chastity Belt*  
Higgins Armory Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm





TANYA MARCUSE  
*Male Orthopedic Corset, 18th century, France*  
Higgins Armory Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm

ARMOR



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Maximilian Armor, c. 1515, South Germany*  
Higgins Armory Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Cuirassier's Armor, 1621, possibly Dutch*  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Elements from a Garniture*, 1582, German  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Steel Barbute c. 1475, Italy*  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm



TANYA MARCUSE  
*Sabboton and Greave, c. 1525, Nuremberg, German*  
Higgins Armory Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA  
Archival pigment print  
14x11 inch / 35x28 cm

## Galerie Miranda: *à propos*

Galerie Miranda was founded in 2018 by Miranda Salt, French-Australian who has lived and worked in the 10th arrondissement since her arrival in France in 1995. Specialised in fine art photography, the gallery presents international artists and works celebrated in their own country but little known in France and Europe. Inaugurated on International Women's Day 2018, the gallery's inaugural cycle of exhibitions featured solo presentations by prominent women artists Jo Ann Callis, Nancy Wilson-Pajic, Marina Berio and Ellen Carey. Amongst the other artists represented, or with works available, at the gallery are Merry Alpern, Peggy Anderson, Jo Bradford, John Chiara, Sally Gall, Gary Green, Gerard Dalla Santa, Chuck kelton, Chloe Sells, Laura Stevens, Arne Svenson, Terri Weifenbach. The gallery participates in selected fairs and private salons and is also a bookshop with a curated selection of publications on photography in French and English. Galerie Miranda is situated in Paris' vibrant 10th arrondissement at 21 rue du Château d'Eau, close to the Place de la République and 100 metres from the former site, on rue Léon Jouhaux, of Louis Daguerre's wonderful Diorama and laboratory, destroyed by fire in 1839.

Galerie Miranda  
21 rue du Château d'Eau  
75010 Paris FRANCE  
Mardi-vendredi 14:00 – 19:00 / samedi 12:00-19:00  
ou sur rendez-vous  
[www.galeriemiranda.com](http://www.galeriemiranda.com)

