

PRESS RELEASE

LAURA STEVENS
Tu oublieras aussi

Exhibition from 11 May to 30 June 2023



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Tu oublieras aussi

Galerie Miranda is delighted to present the second solo exhibition by artist Laura Stevens, entitled 'Tu oublieras aussi' (*You will also forget*).

One of France's most solicited portrait photographers, in her personal projects Stevens explores a resolutely feminine and contemporary point of view of the private sphere, questioning notions of desire, the passing of time, solitude and loss, the connection between the artist and her subject. For her first exhibition at Galerie Miranda, *Corps d'hommes* (2020), Stevens presented her perspective on the male nude, photographed in the private space of her Paris apartment bedroom. For this second exhibition, she pursues her questioning of the intimate sphere but this time considers two bodies, lovers, and what binds them, asking herself the question of the memory of desire and how to represent it.

Until now, the history of erotic photography has largely been written by and for men (Araki, Newton, Molinier, Mapplethorpe...), for the most part with explicit and performative images within a dominant-dominated framework. Several women photographers have made a mark in this territory but in general with a transgressive or militant posture (Krull, Natalia L, Ionesco, Cahun) that doesn't fundamentally offer an alternative to the *status quo*. Fortunately, the list is longer of landmark women artists in other fields of photography - documentary, conceptual and experimental.

Confronted by the weight of these historical signatures, Laura Stevens quietly follows her own path, one that is feminine, free and egalitarian. In the tradition of Anglo-Saxon women photographers of the private sphere, such as Jo Ann Callis, Nan Goldin, Lise Sarfati and Mona Kuhn, Laura Stevens proposes a sensual and considered universe in color with compositions whose hushed ambiance betray an emotional and erotic tension. Her cinematographic images express the interstices of desire, unfinished moments. The new exhibition at Galerie Miranda is thus conceived like a series of film stills, fragmented memories of a precise moment, real or dreamed: a place, a gesture, a shaft of light, a movement. Nature is present, reminding us of our infinite smallness. Bodies are shown simply; desire is everywhere yet invisible.

As she left Casanova once and for all, Henriette, his great love, scratched on a carriage window with a diamond ring the phrase "You will also forget". Tattooed on the arm of Laura Stevens' lover, the phrase reminds her of the essential paradox of desire: both written on our skin and destined to be forgotten.

Lying on his chest I see those three words - "Tu oublieras aussi" (You will also forget) - tattooed on his inner left arm. Those words that have haunted me. Will I forget you? Will you forget me? What will be the memories that remain? I remove myself from the present tense and look to our scene from above, wrapped in each other in the dark. Remember this, we whispered below. Our bodies, our boundaries, that, in rapture, overflowed. And, within our skin, to our separateness, we returned. Did you leave a mark, so I'll find my way home?

I turn to others. Tell me how you hold your desire. Is it contained, accommodating, quiet? Is it fluid, feral, fearless? What are we allowed to long for, what are we allowed to do? Do you see the colour blue too? All this longing in this small space; of flesh, love and possible futures. How it is slippery in our grasp, forever retreating and transforming and erupting.

For years I've looked at those words, trying to prove them wrong. But there is nothing to do. We will forget, yet still, we must hold on. --- Laura Stevens

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Laura Stevens (British, b. 1977) is a photographer based in Paris. Stevens' practice lies at the intersection of the female gaze and the personal. Beginning autobiographically, her reflections are translated through the direct act of looking, using figurative and landscape subjects to create still and moving images imbued with a distinct visual tension. She explores the notion of the private space and the interdependency between emotions and environmental surroundings. The relationship between the artist and subject matter is central to her work, using this connection to create studies on solitude, intimacy, loss and longing.

Her work has been shown in museums, galleries and festivals internationally and has received many distinctions including that of finalist of the Prix HSBC pour la Photographie in 2019. Her photographs have been published by the *British Journal of Photography*, *Wired*, *Variety*, *The Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Libération* and *Télérama*. She received her BA from the Leeds Metropolitan University and her MA from the University of Brighton.

Artist website : www.laurastevens.co.uk

EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2022 Clampart Gallery, New York
- 2021 Galerie Miranda, pop-up gallery, Les Rencontres d'Arles
- 2020 Galerie Miranda, Paris
- 2020 APB Photography, Art Palm Beach 2020, Miami, USA
- 2019 The City (And a Few Lonely People), Clampart, New York, USA
- 2018 Showcase, Standard Vision x Month of Photography Los Angeles, USA
- 2017 Feminine/Feminist, Cinnabar Gallery, Texas, USA
- 2016 Another November, Schneider Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 2014 Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery, London, England
- 2014 Photography Open Salon, Collectors Editions, Office Sessions III, London, England
- 2013 Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery, London, England
- 2013 She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not, Encontros da Imagem Festival, Mosteiro de Tibaães, Braga, Portugal
- 2012 Us Alone, Latvian Museum of Photography, Riga, Latvia
- 2012 3rd Singapore International Photography Festival, ArtScience Museum, Singapore
- 2012 ISSP 2012 Exhibition, Kuldiga Town Exhibition Hall, Kuldiga, Latvia
- 2008 Battlefield, Brighton Photo Biennial, Brighton Media Centre, Brighton, England
- 2007 Light Motives, The Sassoon Gallery, London, England
- 2006 CROP, Brighton Photo Biennial, Sussex Arts Club, Brighton, England

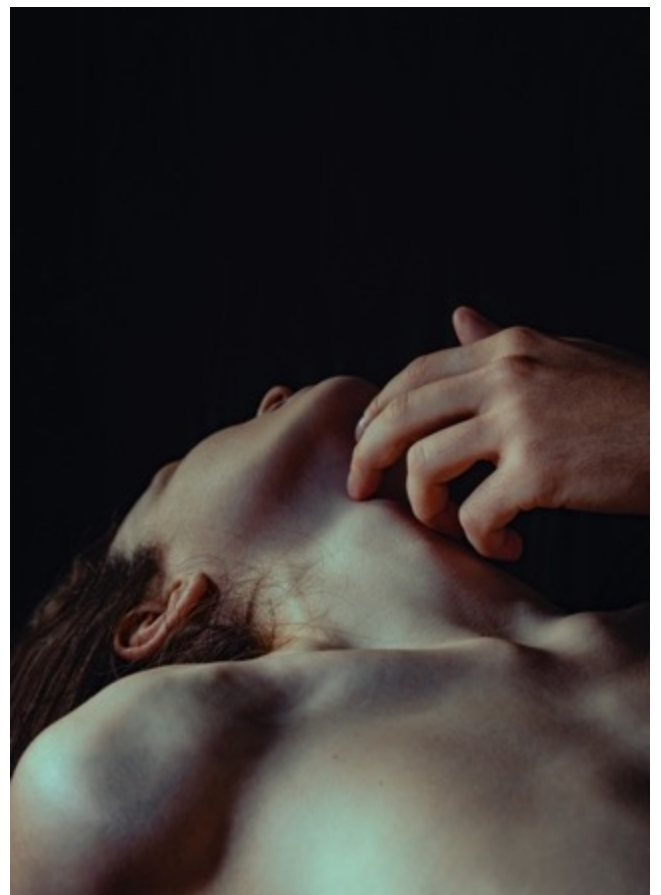
AWARDS & HONOURS

- 2019 Finalist, Prix HSBC pour la Photographie
- 2018 Postcards from Copenhagen, British Journal of Photography
- 2014 Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize
- 2013 Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize
- 2010 Winner Julia Margaret Cameron Award

PRESS VISUALS:



LAURA STEVENS
Threshold (2023)
Archival pigment print 70x100cm



LAURA STEVENS
Hymn (2023)
Archival pigment print 50x65 cm



LAURA STEVENS
Act One (2023)
Archival pigment print 70x100cm



LAURA STEVENS
Altar (2023)
Archival pigment print 70x100cm



LAURA STEVENS
Yellow leaves, waxing moon (2023)
Archival pigment print 100x70cm



LAURA STEVENS
Surface (2023)
Archival pigment print 50x65 cm



LAURA STEVENS
Snake (2023)
Archival pigment print 70x100cm

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, Claude Iverné, Chuck Kelton, Tanya Marcuse, 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 range 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.

CONTACT :

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