

PRESS RELEASE

JEAN CURRAN

Cult new photographs **Godard Bardot** now available at Galerie Miranda (Paris)



Paris, June 2023 ----- To coincide with the 60th anniversary and premier of the restoration of *Le Mépris* ('Contempt') at Cannes Classics Film festival on the 17th May 2023, Galerie Miranda, Paris, is delighted to present **Godard Bardot**, the new work by Irish artist and dye-transfer printer Jean Curran (*The Vertigo Project*), a series of 13 handmade dye-transfer photographs printed from film stills of the original reel of *Le Mépris* ('Contempt'), 1963.

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard, who died in September 2022, and starring Brigitte Bardot, *Le Mépris* was the first time that Godard and Director of Photography Raoul Coutard worked with Technicolor. Godard “used *Contempt* to highlight the industry’s smarmy men, satirize its dependence on money from rich financiers, appropriate contemporary visual aesthetics, and even trouble the so-called male gaze” (Vulture/New York Magazine, May 2023). With Coutard, their use of Mondrian-like blocks of colour, famously overlaying with successive colour filters and the love scene between Michel Piccoli and Brigitte Bardot, was a bold artistic narrative device but also a technical solution to different production issues. More than 60 years have passed since it enjoyed its first theatrical bow, yet its star-studded and diverse fan base - a group that includes Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino and Richard Ayoade – continues to grow.

Through a process of editing and isolating selected frames from the original reel, conducted with the full support of both Jean-Luc Godard and Brigitte Bardot, Jean Curran has created an exclusive, limited edition series of handmade dye-transfer prints that are a fitting 60th anniversary tribute. In fact Curran’s initiation of the project in 2020 was not only fully supported by Studio Canal, it was a hugely influencing factor in the 4k restoration of the film which will now see the movie being re-released over the next year worldwide.

“Ms Curran's project and her interest in *Le Mépris* drew our attention to the dye print. It was this project that made us aware of how important it was to undergo a 4K digital restoration to help preserve one of the most influential movies ever made by one of the greatest filmmakers of all time – Jean Luc Godard. It has given us an opportunity to bring it to new audiences and it was an honour to launch it at Cannes Classics 2023 in memory of Mr Godard who sadly passed in 2022”.

- Juliette Hochart · Directrice du Catalogue de STUDIOCANAL

For more information : enquiries@galeriemiranda.com

Cinema sets before our gaze, a world in harmony with our desires

- André Bazin quoted in *Le Mépris*

Embodying ideas of creative freedom, art, sensuality, and above all the liberty to make artistic choices based on one's own desire, *Le Mépris* has been described as the first post-modern movie ever made.

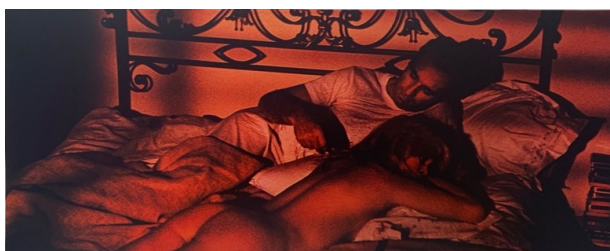
Directed by cinematic icon Jean-Luc Godard and starring Brigitte Bardot, it was the first time that Godard and DOP Raul Coutard used Technicolor, creating an implosion of lush, saturated colours. The photographic series **Godard Bardot** explores the relationship between these icons and the use of colour in *Le Mépris* whilst seeking to bring new attention to the artistry of Godard's vision as a director and to the potency of Bardot's sensuality.

Through a process of editing and isolating selected frames, Irish artist Jean Curran (The Vertigo Project), has created an edit of luminous original handmade dye transfer prints, made with the full support of Jean-Luc Godard, Brigitte Bardot, and StudioCanal. It is a fitting 60th-anniversary tribute to the film which was made in 1963.

While minimalist and cool in appearance, **Godard Bardot** is robustly layered with many different classical and post-modern art quotations and in particular references to Piet Mondrian's modern masterpieces and Yves Klein's monochromes. Brigitte Bardot is presented as a *muse-de-force*, an unattainable object of perfection, a role that is questioned by Godard and highlighted by Curran's choice of frames whereby "Bardot is in charge and in control of her sexuality."

In **Godard Bardot** many of the images Curran selected for her project depict Bardot as a typical art-historical reclining nude with a twist: her body appears abstracted and from a distance. "Le Mépris embodies all of these things: questions about sexual liberty, questions about artistic liberty." This was the first time Bardot's agent allowed the actor's nudes to be depicted in such a manner. Curran's edit treats Godard and Bardot as equally significant actors in this cult and revolutionary film.

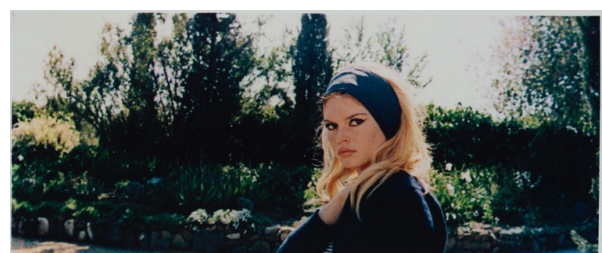
The artwork:



Title: 1. *Do You Like me ?*



Title: 2. #1 Untitled





Title: 5. *You're the one who's changed*



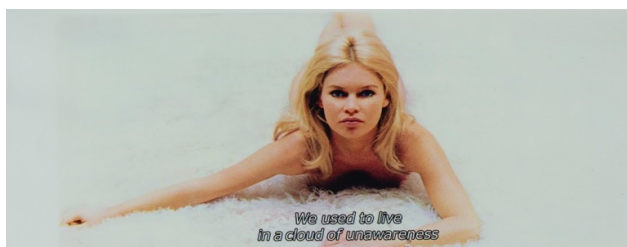
Title: 6. *A Tender Smile*



Title: 7. *What's wrong !*



Title: 8. *Untitled #2*



Title: 9. *We Used to Live in a Cloud of Unawareness*



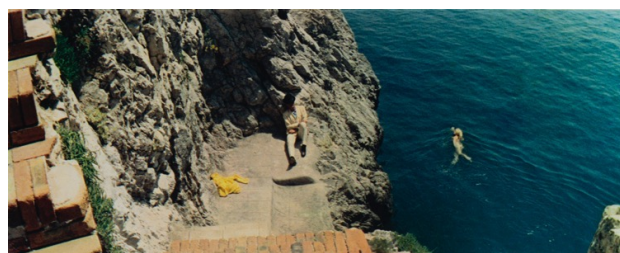
Title: 10. *Untitled #3*



Title: 11. *Camille!*



Title: 12. *Didn't You Hear Me Calling ?*



Title: 13. *Camille!*

JEAN CURRAN
Godard Bardot

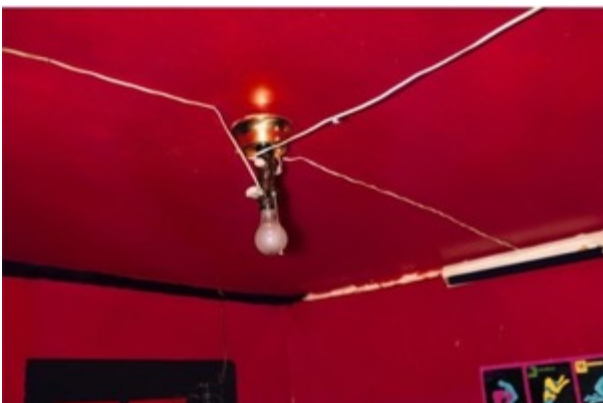
Each print is 20" x 24"
Image size within the border 8.5" x 20.5".
Edition of 10 + 2 x AP's
with 2 + 1AP Portfolios Sets
Prices available upon request

About Jean Curran



Jean Curran is one of a handful of dye-transfer printers working in the world today, and the only artist to be using dye-transfer printing as the basis for her contemporary practice. Curran is interested in the re-contextualisation of early colour films and of re-presenting them as still frame photographic images. Her previous series 'The Vertigo Project', a series of 20 dye-transfer prints taken from the original reel of Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (1958), has been exhibited internationally. The process by which Jean Curran makes her prints is deeply laborious and the time, technical knowledge, and attention that she bestows on each colour print, is similar to a painter or sculptor's practice. Curran's transformation of movie frames gives us a chance to think about cinema and photography, their technological transitions and the myriad interconnections between film, cinema history, and painting.
Artist website: www.jeancurran.com

About the dye-transfer process



William Eggleston,
The Red Ceiling, 1973
Dye transfer print

Jean Curran (b. 1981) is one of the rare artists today to master the mythical and fastidious photography development process called dye-transfer. Until the 1970s, dye-transfer, famous for its precision, rich and stable colour, was until then used only in commercial printing - fashion and advertising. In 1976, MoMA in New York held a major exhibition of dye-transfer works by photographer William Eggleston, the first colour photography exhibition held by the museum. It was a quiet revolution and today, William's Eggleston's dye-transfer prints are amongst the most prized photographs on the art market. The production of the material necessary for dye-transfer printing – paper, ink - was discontinued at the end of the 1970s and only handful of artists continue the practice today.

Summary/Key points:



- The release of the artwork coincides with the 60th anniversary and premier of the restoration of *Le Mépris* ('Contempt') at Cannes Classics Film festival on the 17th May 2023.
- 13 handmade dye-transfer prints, produced in a limited edition of 10 + 2 Portfolio sets
- Stills taken from an original Technicolor imbibition print from the *Le Mépris* ('Contempt') (1963), directed by Jean-Luc Godard
- Artistic project produced by Jean Curran made with the full support of Jean-Luc Godard, Mrs. Brigitte Bardot and StudioCanal.
- With the death, in September 2022, of Jean-Luc Godard and the arrival, in May 2023, of the premier at Cannes Film Festival, this artistic work is very topical.
- The Godard Bardot series is available at Galerie Miranda .
- Private viewing can be arranged.
- High-res files available upon request.
- Interviews with the artist can also be arranged by Galerie Miranda.
- Contact: enquiries@galeriemiranda.com

About Galerie Miranda

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 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.

ALL PRESS AND SALES ENQUIRIES :

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