

Press Inquiries:
milkandnightcuratorial@gmail.com

MILK and NIGHT presents

FOURSOME

An exhibition of Four Female Artists Exploring the Self through Digital Media
Curated by Coco Dolle

SEPTEMBER 9TH-15TH

Opening event September 9th, 6-9PM

GALLERY SENSEI

278 Grand Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10002

Featured Artists: Leah Schrager, Marie Tomanova, Cindy Hinant and Victoria de Lesseps.

FOURSOME is an all-female group exhibition exploring the modern woman's intimate relationship with digital media. For this occasion, Milk and Night's founder Coco Dolle has curated artists from a variety of backgrounds. ***FOURSOME*** includes works by Leah Schrager, Marie Tomanova, Cindy Hinant and Victoria de Lesseps, all younger generation feminist artists utilizing digital formats to highlight important issues related to female representation and identity.

In addition to the exhibition, ***FOURSOME*** will feature the debut edition of *Familiars Quarterly*, and a multi-media reading co-curated with editor Anna Fitzgerald. Poet Monica McClure and net artist Angelina Dreem will present four pieces and expand windows into the mixed composition of self & others during the opening event **September 9th at 8PM.**

In ***FOURSOME***, curator Coco Dolle identifies four key elements in the process of making the artists works that are of historical significance: the self, the digital camera, the computer and the printing process. The works in ***FOURSOME*** characterize the very complex and nuanced conversations happening in the Art World around so-called 'Fourth Wave Feminism;' and the way this particular dialogue interfaces with the production of the *objet d'Art*.

Leah Schrager's challenging works traverse the realm of live spectacle, innovative web platform and social media. Her visceral approach to using the female subject (herself) as object cuts right to the heart of the zeitgeist emerging around contemporary Feminist body politics. Often capturing herself in photographs she then augments and distorts, her oeuvre offers a visual biography of the female form in line, color and texture with otherworldly details thrown into the mix.

Cindy Hinant's work delves deeper into the conceptual territory at hand, offering a pithy analysis of what she calls, "the difficulty women face in taking control of their own image" within the landscape of Art, media and its occasionally empowering but more often demeaning representations of women. In Hinant's video *Selfish*, 2012, computer-generated grids are synced to the Britney Spears' music video *Selfish*, a virtual overlay that communicates the artist's feelings about Spears' supposed pop "feminist" ode to sexual satisfaction and dominance. Cindy's ominous, computer-generated matrix overlaying the pop star communicates the many ways in which her public image and superstar celebrity standing is complicated by the fact that the song is, as Hinant writes, "sung by a woman who does not write her own music and is legally in a conservatorship - without any legal rights over her own person."

Czech artist Marie Tomanova likewise explores gender, identity and sexuality via portraits and self-portraiture. Her performances in a photographic medium explore "self-exposure" as a rejection of societal norms, specifically those that articulate proper habits of gender and sexual orientation.

Artist Victoria de Lesseps, daughter of Countess Luann de Lesseps (notorious star of "Real Housewives of New York") is one of the younger artists in the show. Her haunting prints incorporate skeletal female forms, orgiastic scenes and strange figures with elongated or exaggerated features. As a young woman growing up in the limelight of her Mother, her work offers another strong assertion of female identity and self-representation in a world in which the female body as "S-E-X" par excellence remains the major driving force of late consumer capitalism.

Does the self create society or does society create the self? Are women reclaiming the digital sphere as a space in which they can fashion and refashion their social identities at will? In what ways might the hyper-malleability of virtual reality compromise a sincere reception of the artist in the flesh? These are just a few of the powerful, lingering questions situating the artists of **FOURSOME** within a milieu of young fourth wave women wielding the power of representation as their own.

This exhibition marks the first anniversary of the curatorial's residency at Gallery Sensei and the fourth event in *Milk and Night* series.