

# La Galerie London

presents

## FOCUS ON WOMEN: Two women photographers

Sandrine Commarmond - Caro Worboys

15 – 21 October 2007

PRIVATE VIEW WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER

5.30 – 7.30 pm

at

The Chelsea Gallery

Chelsea Library, Old Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, King's Road, SW3 5EZ London  
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9h30 – 8 pm / Wed 9h30 – 5 pm / Fri, Sat 9h30 – 5 pm

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*Focus on Women* brings the unique perspectives of two female photographers who focus their work (and camera) on women, their image in our society and their symbolism. The work serves as a spring board to explore further philosophical aspects on our view and relationship to the world, the correlation between us and others, our history and our memories.

Even though their styles differ, their approach to photography is similar as demonstrated by their use of the wide variations possible in the photographic medium. With the inclusion of texts, transparency, collages and serigraphy, they manoeuvre photography to communicate their philosophical stance on life and the true sense of the intrinsic meanings of our actions.

Through both their work, one can feel the importance given to memory and history.

**SANDRINE COMMARMOND** will present a series of pieces which represent a sample of her body of work.

*La Madeleine de Proust* is a series of photographs and an installation around the work of French writer Marcel Proust (*In Search of the Lost Time*, 1913) and more specifically how he plunges into memories while idealizing the common and quotidian. The reference to the madeleine (the cake) is passed on to the Madeleine (the woman) in search of her own origins and significance in today's world.

This is a very personal work. She seeks a definition of herself. She looks (frantically) through empty drawers and files to find out where her origins are, and therefore who she is. Our present definition relies on our past. We need an anchor, the knowledge of our roots, to be able to live in the present and look towards the future. Without this knowledge, we float adrift towards unknown territories. We feel lost and isolated.



Both artists play with transparency as a way to emphasize the importance of these specific moments in time. Caro Worboys uses it to translate the fragility of these instants.

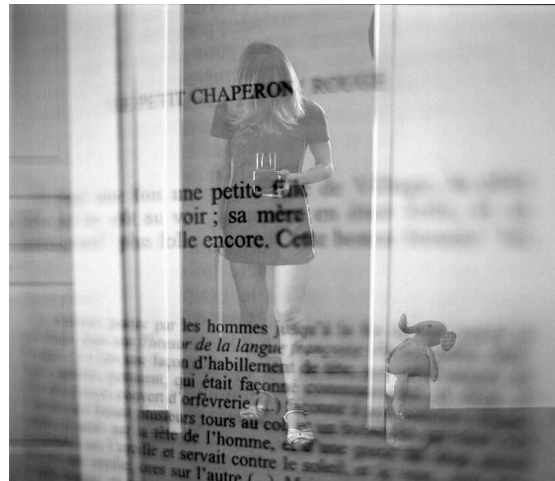
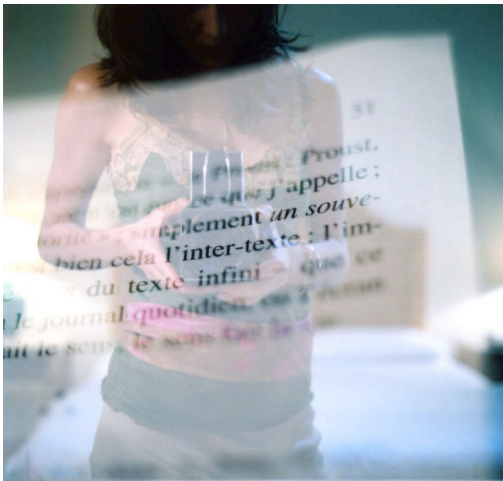
However, Sandrine Commarmond focuses on another time; the interval in *between* our acts (*The Monads*) and the inevitability of their consequence.

**The Monads** refer to the distance between two worlds, two entities - precisely for Sandrine Commarmond - the unnoticed transitory space between two moments in time. Within the action of the floating voile into the desert space, enters the hidden action of the photographer in communion with the person – here a man – who helps her in the process to create this unique and intimate moment.



### ***Pleasure of the Text and Fairytale***

The ambiguity created by the transparent effects and the interaction between the viewer and the woman – the artist herself - exposing / hiding herself behind another camera or a voile, the place and the content of the text create a strong sensual, desirable and aesthetic impression.



**Sandrine Commarmond** was born in 1966 and graduated from the Ecole Nationale d'Art de Cergy (Paris) in a DEA in Aesthetics and Science.

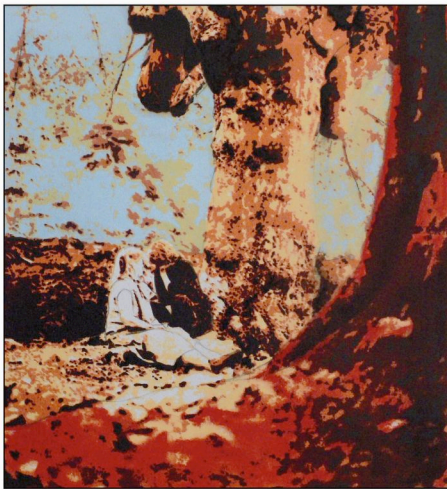
She had three solo exhibitions at the Gallery Art Space in Dubai (2004), the Galerie Gerard Hadjer in Paris (2006) and the Gallery Immix (dedicated to photographers) in Paris (2007).

She participated in many group exhibitions, the most important being the Salon d'Art Contemporain de Montrouge (the Salon de Montrouge in Paris for young emerging artists) in 2002 and 2006 and the Salon Mac 2000 in Paris (2006).

Her works are in the collection of the National Library in Paris.

Focus on Women will be her first exhibition in London.

## CARO WORBOYS



Souvenir  
version 1 sur 4  
35cmx35cm  
mixed media



Caro Worboys expresses the search for lost time through the eyes of women in their quotidian life being a daughter, a wife, a mother or a grandmother. Life goes on but little events, immobilized sequences, become the essence of one's life. Unexpectedly, a smile, a particular light, a whisper, will take us back to these cherished moments which often make past emotions re-surface with intensity.

### ***Lifeprint***

Caro Worboys will present a mini-retrospective of her work by showing us a series of images where she demonstrates the fragility of intimate moments through transparency and lightness.

Inspired by women, she likes to capture with her camera the emotional aspect of everyday life. Moments lost in time, the image reminds us of the past and our family history, raptures our minds.

The emotions created by the photographs tap into the viewer's conscience and help him to connect to his own memories. The effect is that the viewer recognizes his own experiences of life and its anecdotes.

The lens immortalizes these moments which seem so insignificant and could pass unnoticed at the time, and allows us to remember the importance of these moments on our life and existence.

Caro Worboys was born in 1961 in Paris and started in black and white photographic work within the theatre world. At that time, women were already her main exhibition theme.

She left Paris in 1991 for London where she centered her work on families, childhood, and the mother-child relationship. She also discovered lithography and screen-printing which help her to explore colors, material and shapes in her work and experimenting installation.

Caro has exhibited in Paris, London and Pays Basque in France where she works and currently lives.

**La Galerie London** was founded by Karine Giannamore, an art historian and independant curator. Her passion is to promote emerging artists and especially those from her native France in order to introduce their work to London.

Each exhibition revolves around the artists' works and is presented in different spaces chosen according to the type and aspects of the works.

Exhibitions are always associated with a registered charity. **Focus on Women will donate 10% of the profits to Christian Aid which actively supports WASSA (Women's Activities and Social Services Association)**. This Association brings a financial support to women in certain countries such as Afghanistan where mothers are forced to sell their daughters –often very young – through arranged marriages.

A catalogue will be available on each artist.

**For information, please contact:**

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