

**Silvia ANGUELOVA**

**Artist Statement**

I was born in Bulgaria in 1978. I graduated from the University of Paris 8 with a degree in Photography and Multimedia. There, fascinated by the classical paintings and the possibilities offered by the new media, I started my series of photographs entitled *Ecce Homo*.

I have studied the artistic movements from the Renaissance to the 19th century and have been particularly interested in the religious subjects which they treat. My love for classics has always been combined with a sense of fear arising from the obsession displayed by modern artists to come up with new forms of art. I divide each painting into several parts which I deform in order to create a distinctly original work of art. Each one of my photographs tells a life story of a biblical character that I have placed within a contemporary frame. I use the same codes we find in religious paintings such as the trickle of blood and the pale complexion, which look deranged in a photograph. The disconcerting aspect of my work is the clash between the sacred nature of the represented themes and the photography as a relatively new technique.

The woman takes a central stage in my work. I question the nature of women and femininity in today's society. I often use a female body to represent Christ emphasising woman's humanity. Despite the feminist movements of the 20th century our advanced civilisation is still deeply engaged with the moral code and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Followers of Christianity, Islam and Judaism share the belief that women should obey men. The story of Adam and Eve lays a heavy burden on women. We live in a time when depression, discouragement and despair turn people into slaves, lead them to suicide, violence, stealing and debauchery. By employing female models to re-enact the photographs in *The Eternal Feminine* series I show the hidden feminine aspect of our masculine religions. The woman is one of the fundamental prototypes, the mother-matrix from which everything originates and ultimately returns to. She is the eternity of space, the tree of life, man's missing opposite pole. In the series the woman is always represented in white on a white background, a notion shared by the art doctrinaires of the Spanish Golden Age – the Perpetual Virgin Maria, the only woman not carrying the burden of the original sin, the only woman that epitomises absolute purity should be represented in white.

My work displays man and his human nature. It reflects the contradiction between the categories established by our religious beliefs, which have become obsolete with the dawn of the 21st century. By using a mixture of tensions and an elaborate and dramatic setting, I denounce the artificiality of those beliefs and their badly concealed hypocrisy. I am trying to turn the concept of cult upside down and reach the notion of the sacred. My *modus operandi* is based on the voyeurism and seduction through which the morbid transpires by awakening the death instinct. The force of the emotional impact of the means of expression, the execution ability and the used field of reference, impose a brutal questioning of the Western lifestyle.

## **SOLO Exhibitions**

04/2011

«The Eternal Feminine», Blackall Studios, Shoreditch, London, UK

05/2010

«Tableaux Vivants, Mise en Scene & Photography», Showcase The Old Truman Brewery, Bricklane, London, UK

03/2006

Silvia Anguelova, Le Cab, Paris, France

## **GROUP Exhibitions**

07/2011

«Parallax AF», La Galleria, Royal Opera Arcade, Pall Mall, London, UK

05/2011

François-Pohu Lefevre&Silvia Anguelova, Cultural Center Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France

11/2009

«L'émotion de la Photo», Cultural Center Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France

10/2009

«Provok», Cultural Center Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France

09/2009

«Les Grands Maitres de Demain», Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France

11/2008

«L'émotion de la Photo», Cultural Center Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France

10/2008

«Provok», Cultural Center Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France

06/2008

«La Photographie Alternative», Renoma Project Design, Paris, France

01/2008

«Autour de Robert Combas», Metropolis Gallery, Lyon, France

12/2007

«Doucement Nous Sommes Pressés», Heart Gallery, Paris, France

12/2007

«Passion» Fashion Photography Exhibition, Calumet Photographic, Manchester, UK

05/2007

«Interlude Photo-Hommage à Huguette Spengler», Galerie Vivienne, Paris, France

05/2007

«Passion» Fashion Photography Exhibition, Calumet Photographic, London, UK

07/2005

International Photography Festival 2005, Pingyao, China

10/2004

International Meetings of Photography, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

## **Publications**

2010

•Nude Art Today II, International Edition 2009•2010, Edition Patou

2008

•Nude Art Today, International Edition 2008•2009, Edition Patou

•La Photographie Alternative, Territoire Photographique et Jugement Social, Ynox Photo Edition 2007 (web)

•www.paris-art.com, rubric «Expo-perso»

2005

•Ynox Magazine, n10, France

## **Education**

2003-2006

University of Paris-8, MST Photography & Multimedia, Specialisation: Creation and Photographic Image, Paris, France

2001-2003

University of Paris-8, DEUG Fine and Creative Arts, Paris, France

1998-2000

School of Architecture of Paris-Belleville, 1° Cycle, Paris, France