

CAROLINA NITSCH PROJECT ROOM

534 West 22nd Street - New York - NY 10011 - 212-645 2030
www.carolinanitsch.com



From Samar Hussein, Suite of nine prints, 2003/2009

VERA LUTTER

Samar Hussein

April 17 – June 20, 2009

Carolina Nitsch is pleased to present Samar Hussein by Vera Lutter at Carolina Nitsch Project Room in Chelsea, New York. This exhibition is a two part presentation including a DVD wall projection of an endless loop of images with a name list mounted on all windows as well as a portfolio of nine prints.

"Images of a blooming Hibiscus plant are used to allude to the cycle of human life, from the unfurling of the first bud to the rotting of a decaying, shriveled blossom. The flesh-colored tones of these flowers together with their often surprisingly sensuous, sometimes sexual formations, lend themselves to the memory of human life, its beauty and joy, and to the memory of flesh, wound, and death.

The blooming period of this plant covered a distinct time frame, as did each individual blossom. Photography's intrinsic relationship to time, forever sends an at-once-present moment into the past, which in itself continuously slips further away from us. The obtained, tangible image holds the breath of that very moment.

Time, light, and subject, photography's inherent components, establish a sense of transience and death within this medium. The flower, as a part of nature and its analogous appearance to the human body, the conceptual properties of photography, and the very duration of the American led war on Iraq, all made themselves available to give evidence to my eulogy.

Samar Hussein commemorates the estimated 100'000 civilian deaths caused by this war since the invasion in March, 2003. Using information obtained from the Iraq Body Count project, names of the dead were applied to the sequence of projected and printed photographs — one name per image — and to the windows of the Project Room in chronological order of their death. The first image and the entire project are named after Samar Hussein, a 13-year-old girl, and the first civilian to die whose identity was recorded."

Vera Lutter, March 2009

Vera Lutter received her MFA in Photography and Related Media in 1995 from the School of Visual Arts in New York. Trained in Munich as a sculptor, Lutter was inspired upon arriving in New York City by its urban chaos and industrial landscape. Her attempt to capture the current of the city became her first experiment with the camera obscura.

Lutter's photography is known from her projects on architectural or industrial landmarks and places with iconic resonance, from the abandoned Pepsi Cola Factory in Long Island City to the now defunct Battersea Power Station in London. Her depiction of these structures emphasizes their formidable stature while personifying their melancholic solitude and isolation. A haunting quality and ethereal tones dominate Lutter's images, reflecting the passing of time and signifying both the transient and the perpetual.

Vera Lutter's photographs have been exhibited at Dia: Beacon and Dia: Chelsea, New York; Kunsthalle, Basel; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Whitney Museum of Art, New York. Her photographs are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Neue Galerie and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others. Vera Lutter is represented by Gagolian Gallery and Galerie Max Hetzler.

The exhibition Samar Hussein at Carolina Nitsch Project Room is on view from April 17 - June 20. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11am – 6pm.

For additional information or photographic materials please contact info@carolinanitsch.com or call 212 - 645 2030.

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