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MARIANNE MUELLER *DREAM-US-09*

January 24 – March 7, 2009
Reception, Saturday, January 24, 6 – 8 pm



Kim Light/LightBox is pleased to present *DREAM-US-09*, the first American solo exhibition by Swiss artist Marianne Mueller. Her distinctive style of photographic image making embraces a wide range of subjects--from ephemeral chronicles of her own body and habitation; languid, erotic shots of intertwined nudes; to the banal beauty of peripheral details in the outside world. In *DREAM-US-09*, her photographic prints are hung in purposefully composed groups, encouraging multivalent connections among works--relationships that are alternately formal, symbolic, and whose sequence ultimately accumulates its own form of reasoning.

Whether the subject of the camera's lens is rumpled bed sheets or an ordinary truck tire; a shadowy thigh or an excavated gravestone; Mueller's approach is distinct. Repeated throughout her images, there is a characteristic treatment of light and a strategic organization of masses; a perplexing framing and cropping of her subjects to heighten activity in the viewers eye and mind. To that end, black-and-white is typically favored over color and limbs play a larger role than faces in Mueller's regard for the human figure; which is inspected piece by piece, angle by angle.

Though Mueller's reservoir of images includes the most interior and intimate passages, the camera's eye treats them with no more or less fascination than the most everyday features of a cityscape. This marriage of intimacy and studied detachment gives a crystalline clarity to the artist's examination of the figure: drawing visceral, fleeting characters formed outside the boundaries of any traditional narrative. Her nudes, in their stark reality, offer not a voyeuristic experience of lives lived; but an event of the camera whose interests and sequences remain mysterious, ornamental, and subject to reversal and reconstitution.

Born in Zurich, Marianne Mueller lives and works in London and teaches at Zurich University of the Arts, Department of Art & Media. Her work has been exhibited internationally in solo shows with: Galerie Susanna Kulli, Zürich; Arndt & Partner, Berlin; Attitudes, Geneva; Center for Visual Art (CAV), Coimbra; Mario Sequeira Gallery, Braga; and in group shows at: Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago; Neuchâtel Center for Art, Neuchâtel; Winterthur Fotomuseum, Winterthur; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Migros Museum for Contemporary Art, Zurich. Public collections include: Kunsthaus Zürich; UBS Art collection; Center for Visual Art (CAV), Coimbra; Fotomuseum Winterthur; and Foundation for Art Today, Kunstmuseum Bern.

Pictured: Marianne Mueller *DREAM-US-09: UNTITLED (Roter, nasser Torso [Man Ray] 1997), 2009* C-print 70.86 x 47.24 inch (image size 59.06 x 39.37 inch) Edition of 5

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