



PODBIELSKI CONTEMPORARY

## PLEASURE GARDEN

Curated by Pierre André Podbielski

02/9 – 30/9 2020

Opening | September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2.30 – 7 pm

Milan, September 2, 2020 - *Podbielski Contemporary* Gallery is delighted to present *Pleasure Garden*, a project curated by Pierre André Podbielski and which, after a long period of research he began some time ago in Paris, has now come to fruition in Milan, to refocus the eye of the photographer on the artistic Nude.

Pleasure Garden, is a garden of delights, a magical hideaway where the seed of love penetrates the earth, transforming itself into a fleeting and ephemeral lover. The universe of images in the show thus becomes a place of seduction and tactile perception, a place where stories are whispered and yet simultaneously hidden.

From the Seventies on, while studying Architecture at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris, the observation of the Nude was part of his artistic education, seen in shows held in the neighbourhood galleries and at the Museum of Modern Art, and in the innovative magazines that were trending at the time (Lui, Photo).

PODBIELSKI CONTEMPORARY  
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It is not by chance that the thread running through the show is captured in the Latin word *Voluptas*; the delight of the soul is the sweet emotion of the body, the pure pleasure of the senses in communion with the soul. It can also be interpreted as the pleasure provoked by the satisfaction of an impulse or a desire, be it of a material or spiritual nature or stemming from the erotic. In Ovid's *Metamorphosis*, *Voluptas* is the daughter of *Eros* and *Psyche*.

Since 1839, with the birth of photography, the Nude has played a central role; from the nineteenth century collections of erotic postcards and artists' use of them for preparatory studies, from the discovery and awareness of psychoanalysis to the fall of so many taboos, and finally to the impressive list of masters that the history of photography has honoured and praised.

Names like Brassai, Erwin Blumenfeld, Bill Brandt, Lucien Clergue, Horst P. Horst, André Kertész, Robert Mapplethorpe, Carlo Mollino, Nadar, Helmut Newton, Man Ray, Jean Lous Sieff, Edward Weston, and the only recently rediscovered works of Saul Leiter, have been my fellow travellers and my source of inspiration in curating this exhibition.

To open the show, there is a marvellous and iconic image by Erwin Blumenfeld: *In Hoc Signo Vinces*, who, together with Man Ray and André Kertész, was a great innovator in researching the formal expression of the Nude.

This universe of seduction continues with three twentieth-century masters of photography: René Groebli (Zurich, 1927), who opens the show with his wonderful series: *Das Auge der Liebe* (The Eye of Love), a tribute to his wife who he photographed during their honeymoon in Paris in the Fifties.



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We follow on with Ferdiando Scianna (1943, Bagheria), Magnum's great and respected photographer, with deep roots in his Sicilian homeland. He photographs the iconic model, Marpessa, for Dolce Gabbana, a dark skinned woman of mixed race: the essence of refined, sensual and timeless beauty.

And we conclude with Enzo Obiso (1954, Campobello di Mazara), long-time photographer who, starting in 1993 with "Portraits of blessed beauty" carries on his personal research focused on the female nude.

Works by the following photographers will also be shown:

Giulia Agostini (Courtesy Galleria Heillandi, Lugano), Debora Barnaba, Philippe Blache, Erica Campanella, Bruno Cattani, Francesca Galliani (Courtesy Vision Quest 4rosso, Genoa), Gianluca Galtruccio, Caroline Gavazzi, Renè Groebli, Michael von Graffenried (Courtesy gallery Esther Woerdehoff, Paris), Gail Albert Halaban, Bo Ljungblom (Courtesy Galleria Studio la Città, Verona), Ohad Matalon, Enzo Obiso, Peter Puklus (Courtesy gallery Robert Morat, Berlin), Benyamin Reich, Ugo Ricciardi, Steve Sabella, Ferdinando Scianna, Noga Shtainer, Lady Tarin, Andrea Vierucci (Courtesy Galleria Spazio Nuovo, Rome), Milena Villalon and Francesco Zizola.

The Gallery is open from Tuesday to Friday from 2.30-7.00 pm

On Saturdays by appointment only.