

Press release

**Nan Goldin *The Magic Hour***  
**Group show *Feminae***  
**Myung-Ok Han *porte-bonheur* – Project Room, Performance**

Exhibition from September 18 until November 8, 2008  
Inauguration September 18, 2008

For the inauguration of the new season, the Galerie Guy Bärtschi is pleased to welcome, in the entire space of the gallery, different exhibitions which connecting thread is the feminine presence, its image and its creation.

The American photographer **Nan Goldin** comes back to the gallery where she presents recent works on the ground floor. Her work, always intimate and personal, is the occasion to discover new photographs produced for the first time by the gallery. Winner of the Hasselblad Award in 2007, the artist delivers portraits of her friends, her « family » as she likes to call her environment. Sunny or Joey will allow us, for example, to share emotions and confidential moments. The artist's photographs reveal the beauty of the models highlighted by a sensitive composition, bright colours, or a light exposure that transcends the space like in the portraits of French actress Charlotte Gainsbourg. Crude, direct or disturbing, the photographs are also poetical and tender by the universal themes developed: friendship, family, love, illness, death... The exhibition is the occasion to admire too works that have been ordered for special events such as fashion shows or photo reports, landscapes, rarer in the creation of the artist, offering contemplating views of diverse natural or urbane sites, and finally images of stuffed animals, mysterious vanities taken in the maison Deyrolle in Paris, a shop selling taxidermies that burned in February 2008.

In the group show ***Feminae*** presented in the basement, the gallery welcomes not only the female artists of the gallery but also works around the theme of the women. **Carmen Calvo** working on photographs from the 1940s and 1950s on which she adds heterogeneous objects and touches of paint, goes beyond the personal approach and offers a vision on our common roots. In a similar interest for memories, touched in her childhood by advertising images from magazines such as *Paris Match*, the Geneva based artist **Carmen Perrin** proposes works using magazines that she perforates in a succession of circles typical of her work. She apposes on the surface constructions built in depth and inscribes in them symbols with a nostalgic flavour. The Norwegian artist **Per Barclay** takes as models of his photographs young women that he stages in poetical compositions. Often related to the aquatic element and to fluids such as oil or blood, his works are an invitation to meditation. **Mat Collishaw** delivers a dreamlike and fantastic view of the woman in a photograph inspired by *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare. The American **Sandy Skoglund** offers in her series *True Fiction* colourful stages of interiors, bedrooms, kitchens or cars that are common to the American society. **Marina Abramović**, after her big exhibition at the gallery in 2008 presents one of her photographs, *The Composer*, where she is shown dominating an orchestra. Other artists question the feminine identity, such as **Pierre Molinier** and **Alberto Sorbelli** presenting themselves in their works as travesties, such as **Gregor Schneider** in his painting *Die Tochter und die Mutter*, or examine the wedding and the more general relationships between man and woman, as it is possible to see in works by **Rebecca Horn** or **Ghada Amer**. Finally, artists such as **Olivier Blanckart** with his typical works made of scotch tape, cardboard and brown paper, and **Markus Raetz** with his delicate drawings deliver their views on the female theme.

Finally, **Myung-Ok Han**, an artist native from Korea, invites the audience in intimate and poetical spaces punctuated by her colourful creations in wool. According to the old Korean custom, the yang colours such as red, yellow, blue and green can protect from the evil. Mothers suspend balls with these colours in the children's rooms or dress their children with these shades. In our world punctuated by wars and catastrophes, the artist chooses to create protection zones in the gallery, dominated by these colours.