

PRESS RELEASE

PAOLO ROVERSI “Photographs”

Curated by **Shelly Verthime**

opening **Tuesday 22nd March 2011**
from 7 pm to 10 pm

In the presence of Paolo Roversi

on show from 23rd March to 8th May 2011
Monday to Sunday, 11.00 am – 7.00 pm

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PAOLO ROVERSI

“Photographs”

Paolo Roversi, ‘Photographs’ is a multiple exhibition that coincided with the publications of: *Libretto*, *Nudi*, and *Studio* and is a celebration of the unique mile-stones in his photographic journey.

Libretto is a composition of photographs by Paolo Roversi which combines images of fashion, still life and nudes. As if in a fairy tale, together they form a magic and enchanted world of shade and light, shapes and colours which creates an atmosphere both dreamlike and bewitching. The emotion of a look, the sensuality of a body, the elegance of a movement leads us into the mysterious spheres of beauty. Published in 2005, *LIBRETTO*, was a book that was based on *Comme des Garçons* fashion and was staged as an exhibition in Japan and China.

Nudi, an introduction of Paolo Roversi unique series of nudes. Whether famous or unknown, all models having posed for Mr. Roversi, have now turned into angels and figures of light; they are subtle and vulnerable mystical icons filled with erotic energy. The viewer is faced with sensuous beauty, and the magic of the human body.

Studio features nearly two decades of Paolo Roversi’s hugely influential studio portraiture. Within the confines of his Paris studio, Mr. Roversi photographs using a 8 x 10” Polaroid format, often allowing the images to fade before fixing them to their substrate. His long exposures at close range harness an aesthetic from the earliest days of studio photography, but with a renewed urgency that wavers somewhere between history and apparition.

Stripped of the usual accoutrements of studio portraiture, Mr. Roversi’s subjects push back with a vulnerable intensity that reveals as much of the photographer as of the model. The images collected here function not only as a series of individual portraits, but also as a collective self-portrait of the artist and the place that stands at the center of his work.

First published in 2005 in a limited edition, this new edition of Paolo Roversi’s sumptuous and critically acclaimed book presents this distinctive body of work in an accessible trade edition.

BIOGRAPHY:

Born in Ravenna in 1947, Paolo Roversi’s interest in photography was kindled as a teenager during a family vacation in Spain in 1964. Back home, he set up a darkroom in a convenient cellar, and began developing and printing his own black & white work.

In 1970 he started collaborating with the Associated Press: on his first assignment, AP sent Paolo to cover Ezra Pound’s funeral in Venice. During the same year Paolo opened his first portrait studio located in Ravenna. In 1971 he met by chance in Ravenna, Peter Knapp, the legendary Art Director of *Elle* magazine. At Knapp’s invitation, Paolo visited Paris in November 1973 and has never left.

In Paris Paolo started working as a reporter but little by little, through his friends, he began to approach fashion photography.

The British photographer Lawrence Sackmann took Paolo on as his assistant in 1974. « Sackmann was very difficult. Most assistants only lasted a week before running away. But he taught me everything I needed to know in order to become a professional photographer. Sackmann taught me creativity. He was always trying new things even if he did always use the same camera and flash set-up. He was almost military-like in his approach to preparation for a shoot. But he always used to say 'your tripod and your camera must be well-fixed but your eyes and mind should be free'". Paolo endured Sackmann for nine months before starting on his own with small jobs here and there for magazines like Elle and Depeche Mode until Marie Claire published his first major fashion story. A Christian Dior beauty campaign brought him wider recognition in 1980, the year he started using the 8 x 10" Polaroid format that would become his trademark. Not only because of the large camera, Paolo has always preferred working in studio. In his first years in Paris, the studio was very often a room from his own different apartments, all on the left bank, until he found in 1981 the studio located in 9 rue Paul Fort where he is still working.

In the middle of the '80s the fashion industry was very keen to produce catalogues which allowed photographers to express a very creative and personal work: Comme des Garçons, Yohji Yamamoto, Romeo Gigli... gave Paolo that opportunity.

During his travels to India, Yemen... Paolo took many portraits; we can see some of them in his books ANGELI and Al Moukalla; a book about India is in preparation. Paolo has also realised some commercials. Since the middle 80' his work has been subject to many exhibitions and books and many awards have honoured his work. Today Paolo has a regular collaboration with the most interesting fashion magazines and fashion designers.

EXHIBITIONS(Solo):

2006 Studio, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse number 1 (Yokohama)

2005 Studio, Transphotographique (Lille)

2002 Studio, Pace MacGill Gallery (New York)

Studio, Galerie Camera Obscura (Paris)

2001 Images Cerruti, James Gallery (Moscow)

2000 Paolo Roversi, Photographs, Gallery Carla Sozzani (Milan)

1998 Portraits, Gallery 213 (Paris)

1997 Paolo Roversi, Comme des Garçons (Tokyo)

Paolo Roversi-Fashion, Scalo Bookshop (Zurich) (with Robert Frank)

1995 Paris Défile, Villa des Noailles (Hyères)

1994 Galerie Municipale du Château d'Eau (Toulouse)

Paris Défilée Gallery Brownstone (Paris)

Paolo Roversi Polaroids, Hamilton Gallery (London)

Angeli, Photo Gallery International (Tokyo)

1993 Angeli, Gallery Camera Obscura (Paris)

1992 Paolo Roversi (Monaco)

1990 Donne Nude (Tokyo)

1989 Una Donna, Solomon Gallery (New York)

Una Donna, Spazio Romeo Gigli (Milan)