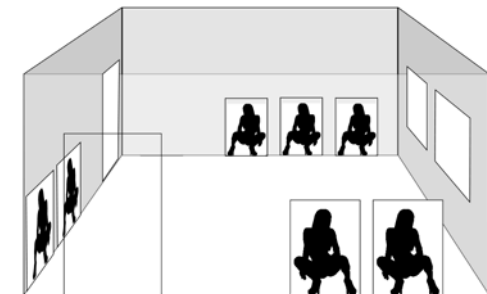


MARINA

«Let me see your beauty broken down»

The photo installation «*MARINA*» consists of 14 large-scale chromira c-prints mounted on aludibond [100 x 70 cm]. «*MARINA*» brings beauty, power, sexuality and their standards up for discussion. Photography is the interface for the reflection on reality and image concerning the gender debate. The hyper realistic photographs provoke the beholder to think about his own position concerning those questions.



Year of Production

2005

Shows

2005, pep+no name gallery, Basel, Switzerland
2008, Galerie im Waschaus, Berlin, Germany

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MARINA

«Let me see your beauty broken down»

*«What if everything around you isn't quite as it seems?
What if all the world you think you know is an elaborate dream? And if you look at your reflection, is that all you want to be? And if you could see right through the glass, would you find yourself afraid to see?»*

Nine Inch Nails: Right Where It Belongs

At first sight everything is absolutely clear. The pose, the dress: Here we have an object. An object for our voyeuristic view maybe even for our sexual fantasies. «MARINA», the perfect folly of every man's dream. Really? Better have a second look: At closer inspection certain details do not really suit that image. Our eye through the daily consumptions of numerous advertisement and erotic photographs skilled and on perfection sensitised eye is irritated.

The (damaged) top does not fit her perfectly. There are small irritations all over her skin: blood vessels, porosities, hairs, pimples, scars, and wrinkles. All that is not aesthetic, it irritates, and we do not want to see that. These mistakes do not suit our image of a perfect world of consumption, where flawless beauty from every billboard and in any shop smiles at us.

Beautiful people are being presented in an idealised way of which we know exactly that we will never reach because these people do not exist in reality. We will never look like them; we will also never have sex with someone looking like that. Nevertheless these pictures have a comforting effect especially because we know: it is all computers, all Photoshop, just effects, false front, just do not take it serious. Such perfect images are harmless exactly because they display something unreal and therefore are very distant from us.

By the imperfectness of «MARINA» we suddenly feel very close to the image, she suddenly becomes more real than acceptable. We did not want to know it that accurately, we did not want it to be so real.

And suddenly we ask ourselves if there was something wrong with «MARINA's» view. Is that really the empty view of an object in which we project our sexual desires or is she answering us? Is there contempt in her view? Contempt because we are looking at her so bluntly? Does this woman, which shows her body so relentlessly not arrogate something. With all her mistakes and rough edges. Can we support this openness? Are we perfect ourselves? No, no one is perfect. Can our bodies at least compete with «MARINA's» body?

Who is looking at whom exactly? Go on! Look a little longer but beware: Seven pairs of eyes see more than one pair! Whilst you are calmly looking at your object, «MARINA» is observing your backside for a long time already. - Sebastian Refardt, Senior Texter, Valencia Communications, Basel, Switzerland