

MAISONNEUVE

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Press Release

Project Room

Ralph Samuel Grossmann

Desirella

September 30th – October 29th 2005.

Exhibition Opening Thursday September 29th 2005, 6 – 9 pm

Gallery Maisonneuve is proudly launching a new space, the **Project Room**, with the exhibition, *Desirella*, works by Ralph Samuel Grossmann. The Project Room will offer each month an exciting and challenging independent program that give the viewers the opportunity to discover artists from all venues.

“Exulting with Beauty

A woodsy trail, a woman’s body, sculpted as she is throwing herself, a couple embracing.(...) Here and there multicolored circles emerge, abstract and sudden appearances all over, teasing each other among the branches, running through the sculptures surface. Others pursue their course on immaculate white backgrounds, shining with exhilaration. These citrus like spheres seem to be traveling from some virtual world like pixels from some imaginary film roll. Rightly so, indeed.

Ralph Samuel Grossmann makes an inventive use of digital photography to create abstracts works far from the expected image the scenario could suggest. The aesthetical exultation one feels for the work increases the desire to possess it. A sexually charged approach to photography develops. Endlessly these images play with our senses, letting us in, but never allowing us any control.”

Christine Macel

Desirella is a body of works comprising a video (DVD, 11’22), 5 photographs of landscape (120x 90cm), and 4 abstract photographs (90x90cm). The photographs are to be viewed in the context of the video *Desirella*. Each photograph, as well as the video, has been enhanced on a computer through digital special effects. The works exhibited all together create a full panorama.

The relationship between man and nature is the premise of Ralph Samuel Grossmann’s work. When the threat of environmental destruction from human actions is the theme chosen by the artist, he deliberately understates it. Rejecting the idea that one has to act aggressively in order to bring changes, the artist chooses to be playful and optimistic. From a simple fiction, (a young woman, *Desirella*, meets her lover, *Désiré*, into the woods in Paris suburbs), Grossmann envisions playful imageries, colorful and slightly scary. They tend to bring to life an invisible, microscopic world, meant to be the surrounding pollution, but which never ceases to be sensual. Is it reality or a mirage? The viewer stays free to decide between the two: could it be the artistic rendering of a polluted world or the metaphor for the irrepressible desire of the two characters.

Ralph Samuel Grossmann lives and works in Paris. He studied in the US and holds a diploma of Master of Fine Art, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia. Ralph Samuel Grossmann’s works have been exhibited in New York, USA, at Nikolai Fine Art Gallery and in Philadelphia, USA, at Tyler Gallery.