

Sara Romani

About Beauty, Love and Fear & Suspended Boundaries

Sara Romani, an italian photographer based in Boston, Massachusetts introduces us two series of photographs: About Beauty, Love and Fear and Suspended Boundaries. The serie titled About Beauty, Love and Fear is a visual poem from a documentation during her first pregnancy. In order to grasp full awareness of the many changes, she has been actively documenting her life and the life that surrounded her. Her photographs focus on the prosaic, the familiar and the simply ordinary, but the images can take on a deeper significance, and what at first materializes as subjective and intimate turns into a narration to share for its universal echoes. In the series Suspended Boundaries Sara Romani expresses her fascination with the myriad ways that photographs translate reality and how they invite us to question our knowledge of what is actual. Photographs represent unstable stages made of layered sheets of paper. She created pictures that stand on the fine line between abstraction and figurative representation, awareness of represented reality and pure aesthetic pleasure. Pictures, which can express simultaneously a chronicle, an intuition or a provocation, are the most valuable manifestation of the author, both as an artist, and as a human being.

Through photography I aspire to represent the spaces where visual relationships take place: the space of the picture becomes the place where I capture the intertwined of particulars and views. Through the juxtaposition of subtleties I create meaning out of tumultuous accidents and felicitous coincidences. The series of pictures depict my personal care for the detail found in reality as well as the wonder for the natural world. They are constructed to tell stories and awaken consciousness of the many layers of meanings that the visual material embodies.

Although the pictures are rooted in my personal episodes, I hope that they can also reach the universal experience: The gentle versatility of photographs - which can express simultaneously a chronicle, an intuition or a provocation - allows me to express myself as artist and as human being.

About Beauty, Love and Fear

« *To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your
hand, And eternity in an hour. »*

*William Blake,
Auguries of Innocence*

About Beauty Love and Fear is a visual poem.

It begun with the time when I left my parent's home; it coincides with an earnest chapter of my life when I soon realized I was both a creator and a creature. The series of pictures move from a documentation of my life during my first pregnancy; although everything happened in one-year time lapse, the perception of it was as a sudden gust of wind. In order to grasp full awareness of the many changes, I have been actively documenting my life and the Life that surrounds me. I recorded insignificant events and attempted to trace order and harmony in the chaotic world I was in. While my photographs focus on the prosaic, the familiar and the simply ordinary, the images can take on a deeper significance, and what at first materializes as subjective and intimate turns into a narration to share for its universal echoes.

Suspended Boundaries

This body of work expresses my fascination with the myriad ways that photographs translate reality and how they invite us to question our knowledge of what is actual. I am drawn to the paradoxical work of the camera: it both renders lived experience faithfully and yet yields unexpected moments of surprise by deeply transforming what I see.

The series began when I first took a picture of a scale model of an empty stage: my training in set design and education in theater influences my way of looking through the camera. My photographs represent unstable stages made of layered sheets of paper: shapes and light are assembled, sometimes with figurative references, sometimes with atmospheric plays of light.

Starting from reminiscences of domestic spaces and mundane objects of ordinary life I create pictures that stand on the fine line between abstraction and figurative representation, awareness of represented reality and pure aesthetic pleasure.

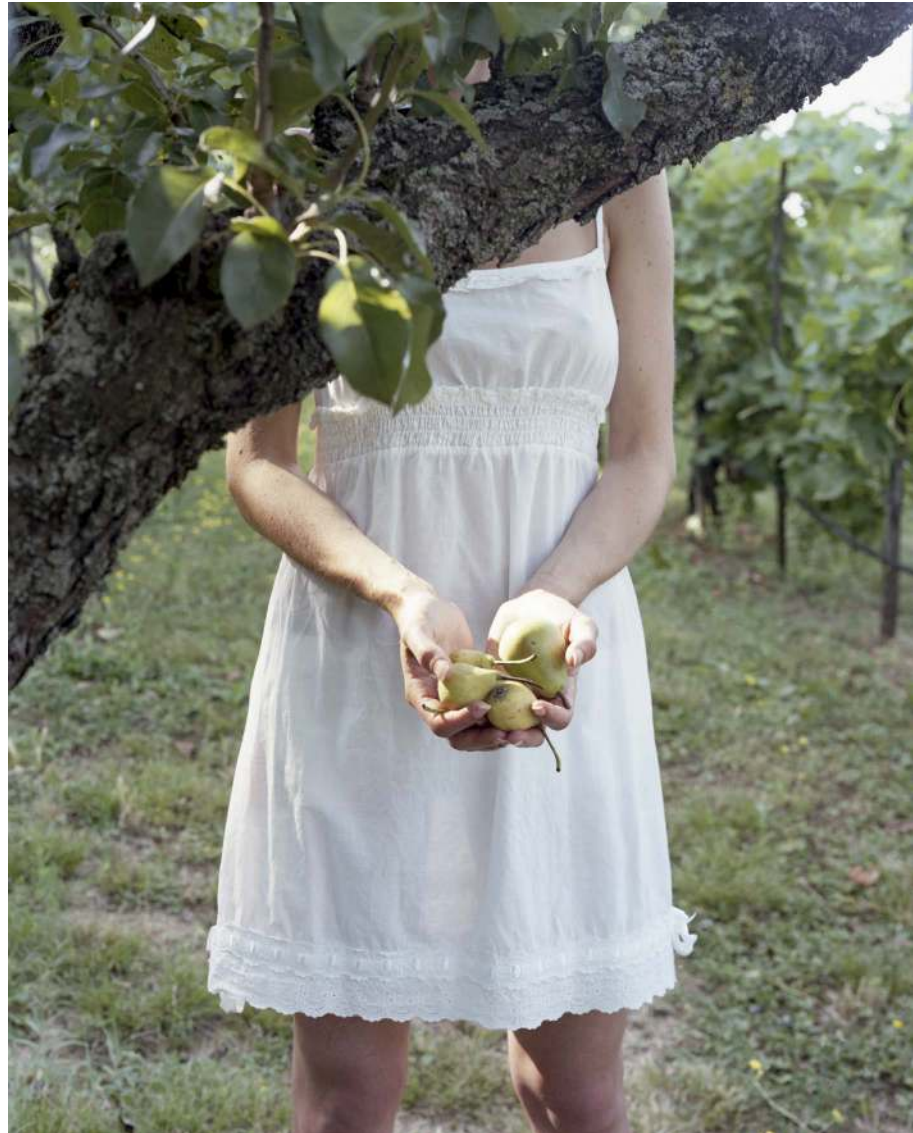
About Beauty, Love and Fear



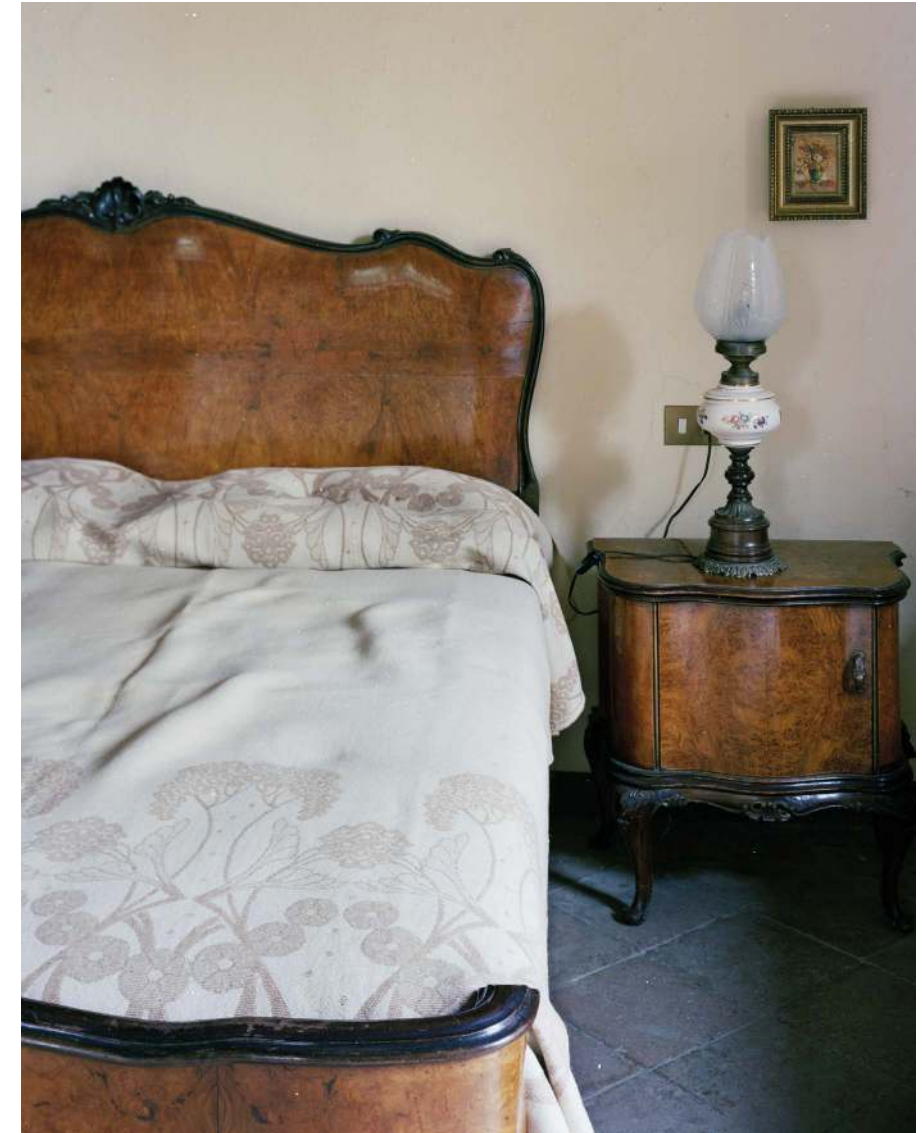
Drawing



Lilly



Pears



Bedroom



Table#4



Lake



Table #7



Sunset



Bust



Mirror



Below#2



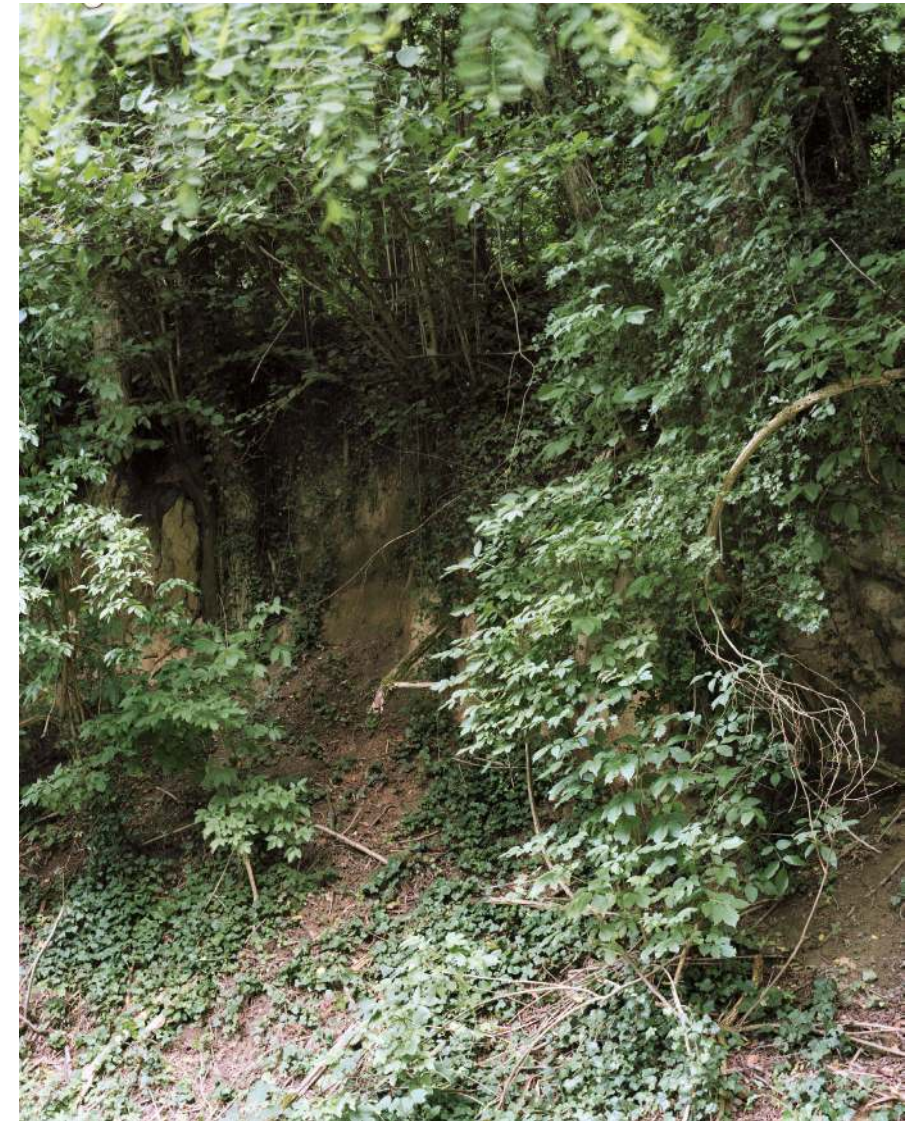
Table#8



Wood



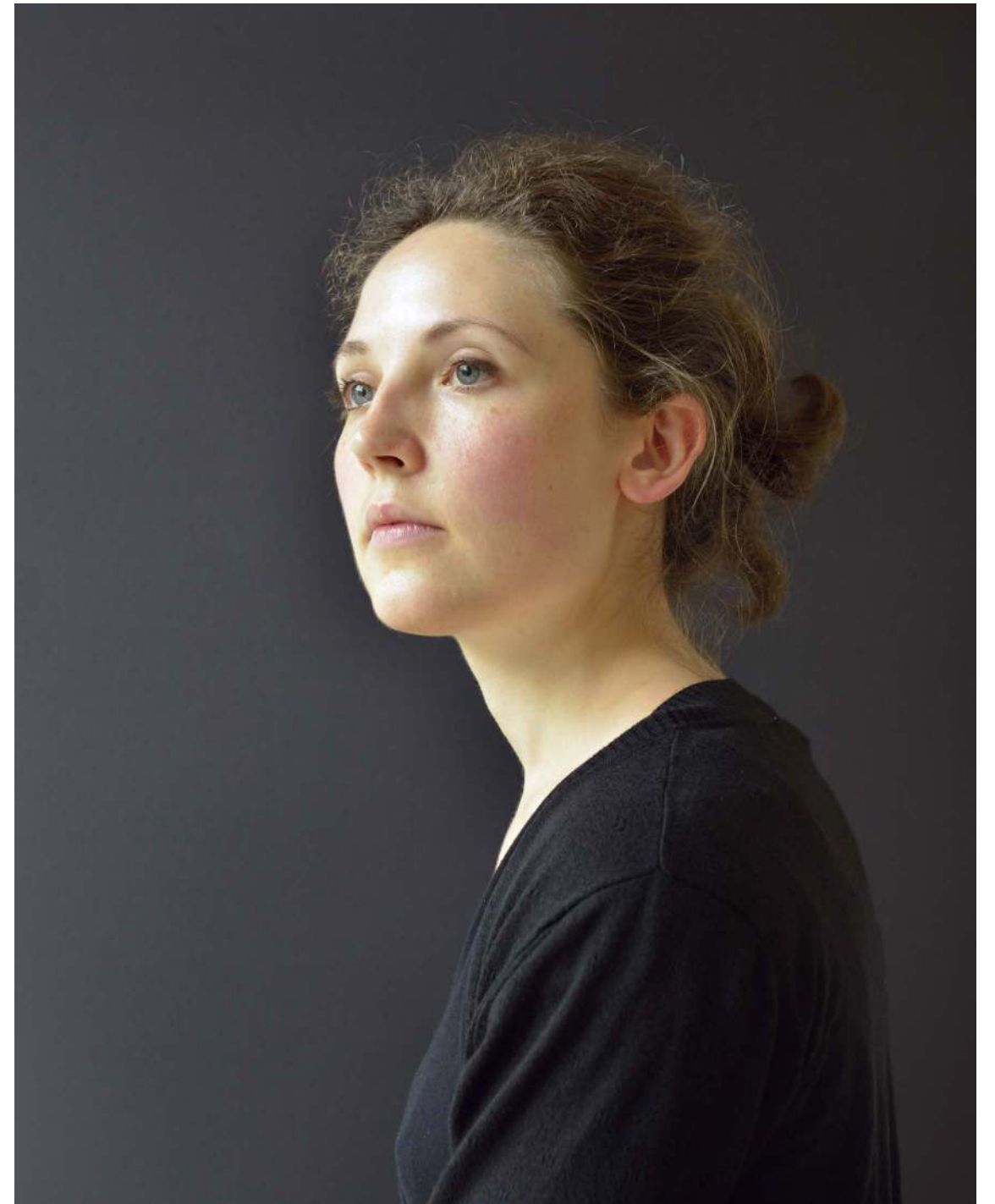
Head



Below#1



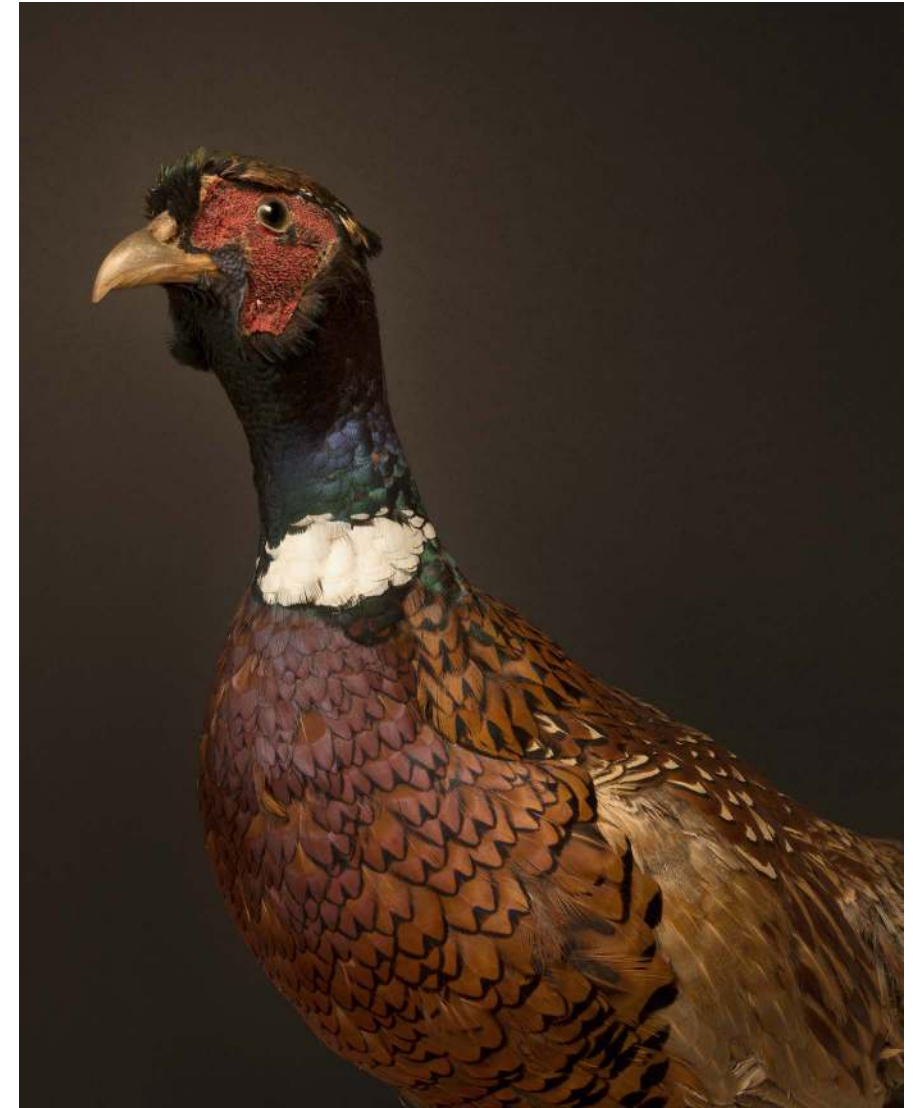
Table#6



Anne



The baby



Pheasant



Below#3



Table#2



Below#4



Lavender



Legs



Olive trees



Olive trees



Clouds



Cup and lemon



Table#3



Table with flowers



Horse



Olive



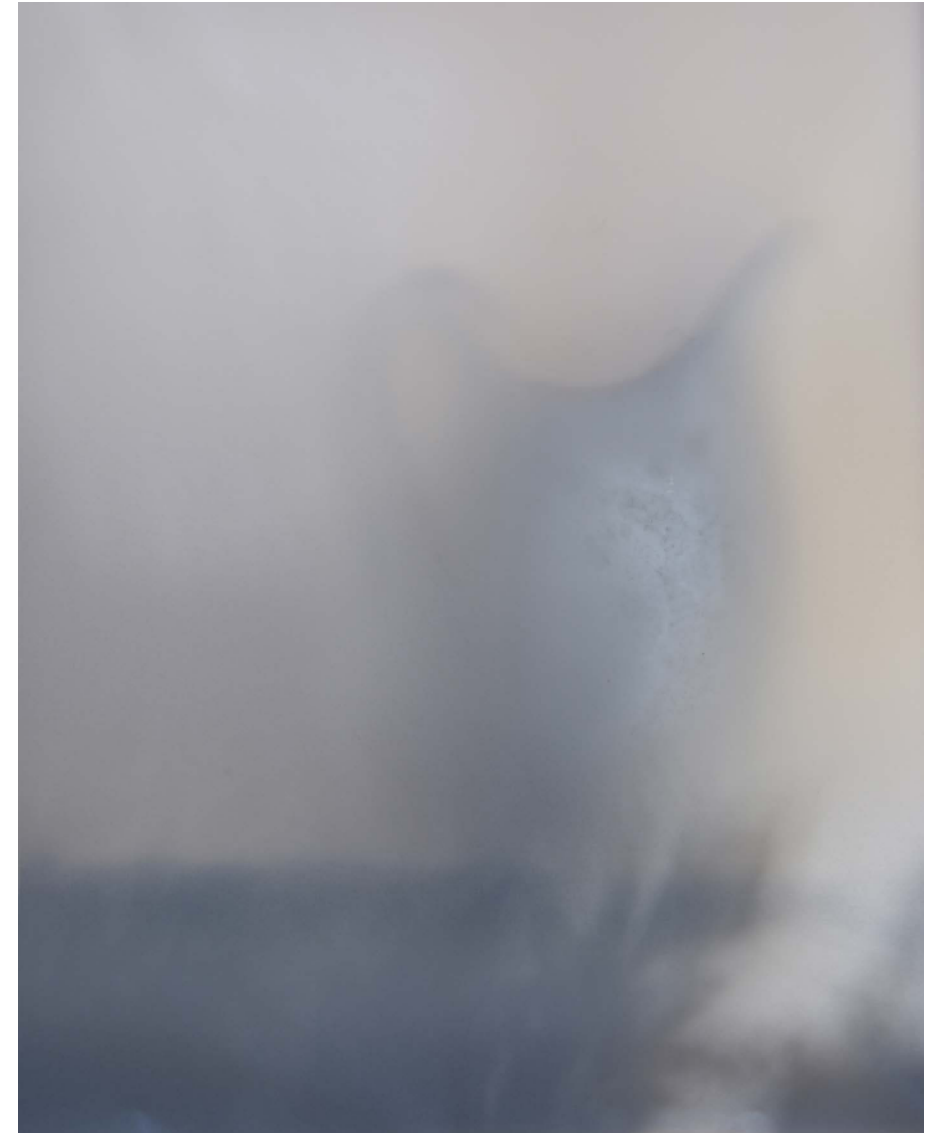
Land



Table#5



Rabbit



Vase



Table#9



Trees

Sara Romani's work is certainly influenced by her education in theater. The emphatic use of the stage, as a privileged place where the picture is captured and reproduced to the attention of the viewer, is present in her entire corpus.

From *About Beauty, Love and Fear*, where the camera is moving directly on the stage of the real world, to the following still-life series *Suspended Boundaries* in which she physically built a theater set to take the picture, Romani uses the photographic medium to understand her standpoint as image-maker and consequently how her view of the world can be rendered through the camera. Whether she creates still life composition from cut out paper or from the depiction of mundane objects of everyday life, she remains the undisputed master of her worlds.

In *About Beauty, Love and Fear* Romani uses the medium and the image itself as stage to frame an evocative and poetic theater piece, where the narrative character of the series gives her also the opportunity to become the spectator of her own world.

Furthermore, the body of work can be subtitled as „Journey of an upcoming woman“. It presents a series of over 40 images in the format of a poetry collection where the juxtaposition of close-up views and landscapes create a multifaceted and melancholic chronicle. The series is highly autobiographical and begins with the documentation of the quotidian intricacies of a sometimes chaotic and intense period of her life. The series was thus an attempted to trace order and beauty in the chaotic world she

found herself in during pregnancy. Through the photographic medium and the reflection upon the captured moments the artist furthered her self-understanding as artist –the creator-, as well as creature, as being part of Nature.

This series appears as mental introspection, shared between peaceful times and dramatic wanderings, like a game between an omniscient camera and an external point of view reflecting the «theater of her emotions», shown with a sense of distance and detachment. Ubiquitous throughout the series is the idea of being present and looking at the outward appearance of the natural world, mostly filtered through the landscape view. In a time of rapid change, she found herself in need of looking and examining the details as well as Nature around herself to find beauty as the thread that bounds together an extra-ordinary reality.

In addition, the images display multiple layers of meanings and in-depth significances, for what initially appears “subjective and intimate often turn into a narration to share for its universal echoes”. The universal resonance of the pictures lays at the intersection between autobiography and fiction, between depiction of reality and echoes of dreamlike impressions.

For the artist the whole creative process involved -from the intuition and the formulation of the idea, to the actual gesture of taking the picture until the printing phase- concur in the fulfillment of the series. About the creative process that led to the following series titled *Suspended Boundaries*, Romani

says that: « (I soon realized that) the pile of prints (from the previous series *About Beauty, Love and Fear*) represents an archive of images that I could have used in different ways: it was the actual process of leafing through my own pictures and disassembling my own shots, which rooted the new series. It was a way to give the pictures a new meaning, starting from them as raw material, to secure their significance thanks to the creation of new images. The gesture of gathering together new composition through the disassembled pieces of one of my own pictures makes me think again, but in a new light, on the meaning of creation, more as fabrication and invention of fictitious frames. It was almost like playing with fragments of my own memory, which I continuously master by decomposing it to find new scenarios and new interpretations.»

In both series, the pictures solicit the viewer to approach the threshold of the photograph as a gateway, in order to question the nature of the medium itself as well as the perceived reality depicted in it.

Sara Romani's work is embodied both in the universal problematic of the artist; the understanding and appropriation of oneself and the world, and in the questioning of the medium that has pursued the photographer since its invention: does Photography bring us the truth or is it a mere reproduction of a staged reality? Romani's bodies of work challenge the physicality of the medium and its mediality.

By Caroline Fayette

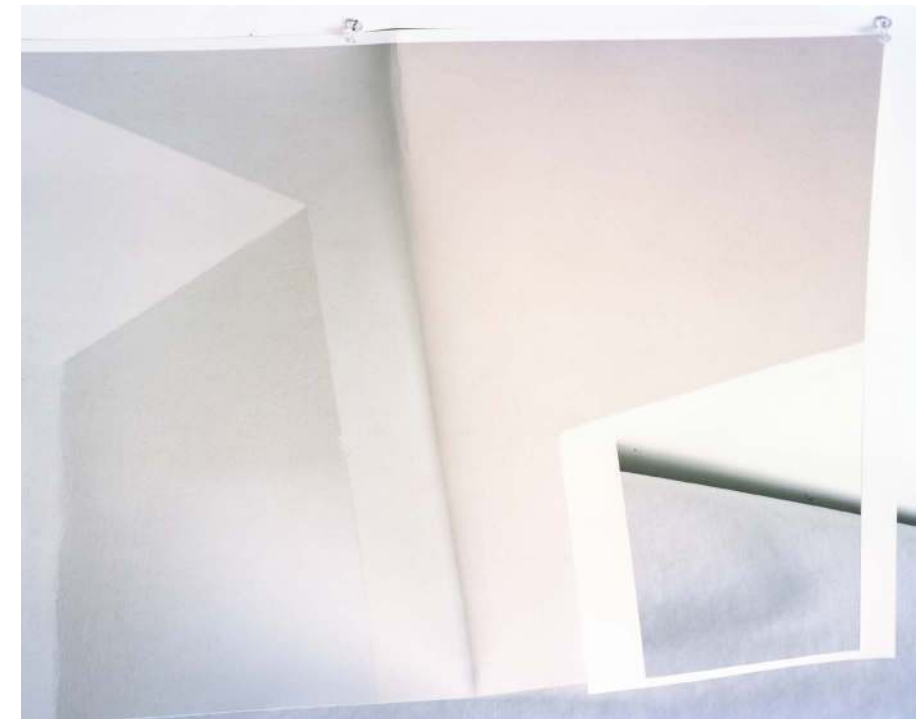
Suspended boundaries (2014)



Drops



Cloth



Door



Flowers



Green bottle



Mirror



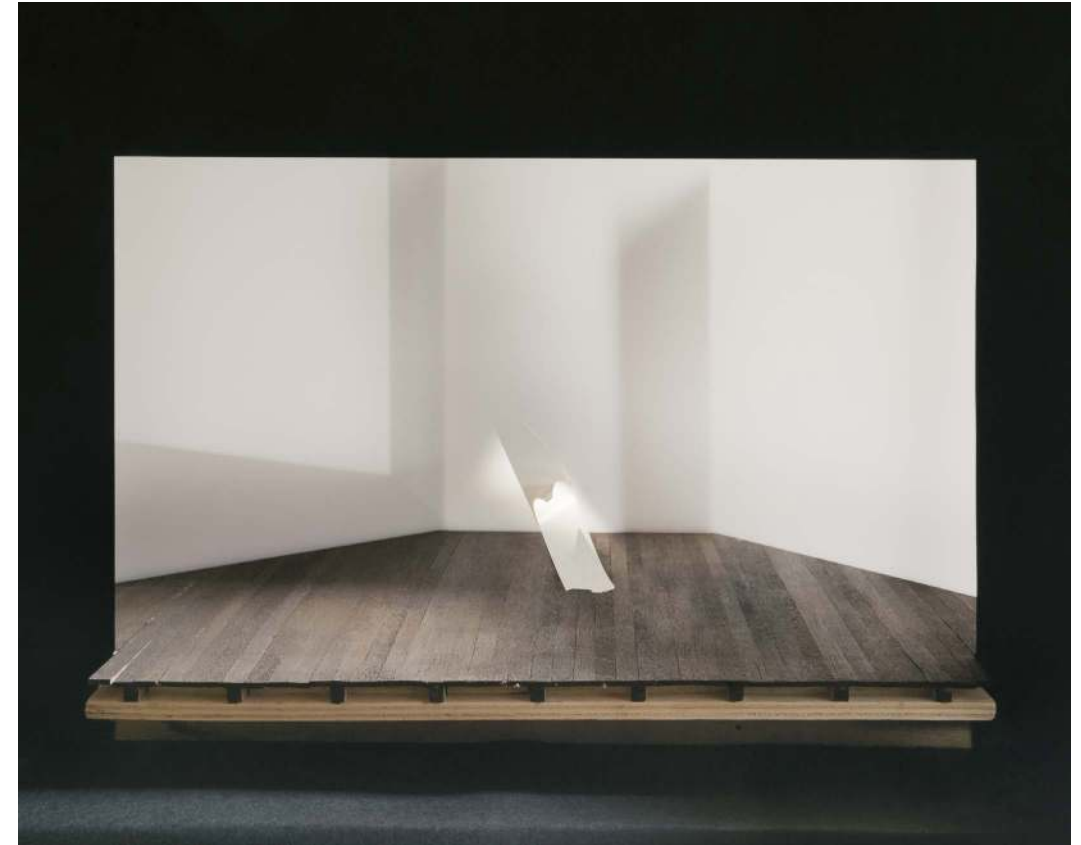
Pages



Phaesant



Pillow



Stage



The Wall



The veil

Sara Romani (1987, IT)

Sara Romani is a PhD candidate at the Kunsthistorisches Institut of the Univeritaet zur Koeln. After receiving her BA with honor at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan, she moved to Boston to pursue graduate studies: she graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, with an MFA degree in Photography. At Massachusetts College of Art and Design she was also lecturer and research assistant for the Photography Department.

STUDY

- 2014
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design, MFA Photography, Boston, MA
- 2010
- Academy of Fine Arts Brera, BA, cum laude with honors, Milan, Italy

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017
- Fake Realities, Rashōmon Club, Rome, Italy March 2017
- 2015
- FOCUS photo I.a., The Icon, Los Angeles, CA April 2015
- Photo I.a. Los Angeles International Photographic Arts Exposition, Los Angeles, January 2015
- 2014
- 5 Years of Talent, Galeria Valid Foto BCN, Barcelona, September 2014
- Summer Art Walk, Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA July 2014
- WGBH Fine Art Auction, Juried Exhibition, Boston, MA, July 2014
- Creative Industries Summit,

- Group Exhibition, Godine Gallery, MassArt, June 2014
- Emerging Focus Barcelona, Juried exhibition by Karen Sinsheimer, Stephen Cohen, Fernando Peracho Murillo, H. Drohojowska-Philip, June 2014
- MFA Thesis Exhibition, curated by Lisa Tung, Paine and Bakalar Gallery, Boston, MA April 2014
- 25th Annual Benefit Art Auction, Juried Exhibition, Paine Gallery, Boston MA April 2014
- The Sound of Art, Rubin-Frankel Gallery, Boston University, MA, February 2014
- LENS 2014 International Juried Photography Exhibition, Juror Martha Schneider, Perspective Gallery, IL
- MassArt3, McGladrey Art Gallery, Charlestown, MA, February 2014
- 2013
- Reliquary, Juried Exhibition, Nave Gallery, Somerville, MA November 2013
- WGBH Fine Art Auction, Boston, MA, July 2013
- 24th Annual Benefit Art Auction, Juried Exhibition, Paine Gallery, Boston MA April 2013
- 2012
- CT+6 Exhibit, A regional exhibit open to artists throughout New England + New York, Juried Exhibition, Juror Susan Cross, West Hartford Art League, CT 2012
- Alien Artist Show, Student

- 2011
- Incoming Graduate Show, Doran Gallery, Boston, MA – September 2011
- Binding Friendship: Ricci, China and Jesuit Cultural Learnings, Boston College, MA
- 2010
- Young Scenographer Expose, Salon Primo, Academy of Fine Arts Brera, Milan, Italy 2010
- 2009
- Freedom to Create Atelier, Gluck Arte, The Walt Disney Company, Accademy of Fine Arts Brera, Milan, Italy 2009

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016
- DEAR DAVE, Printed Issue 23, August 2016
- GUP Magazine, Online Portfolio Featured, July 2016
- 2015
- Der Greif, Issue #8, Print-Magazine for Contemporary Photography, April 2015
- 2014
- Aint-Bad Magazine, Online Featured, <http://aintbadmagazine.com/Sara-Romani>
- Creative Quarterly Journal, The journal of Art and Design, Competition Winner Photography Student CQ34, #34 Spring 2014
- Photo of the Day -Friday, December 6th 2013, FotoVisura- Photo of the Day
- 2013
- Onward Forward, Momentum in student

- Photography, by Acacia Johnson, <http://www.onwardforward.com/>, December 2013
- F-Stop Magazine, Juxtaposition Issue#56, <http://www.fstopmagazine.com>, January 2013
- 2009
- The Walt Disney Academy, catalogue “Freedom to create”, Milan, Italy, 2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2014
- Teaching Assistant, Senior Thesis Project, David Hilliard, Dana Mueller, Massachusetts College of art and Design, Boston, MA, Spring 2014
- 2013
- Lecturer with Molly Lamb, Intermediate Black and White Photography/Non-Major, Massachusetts College of art and Design, Boston, MA, Fall 2013
- Teaching Assistant, Advanced Digital Printing, Matthew Monteith, Massachusetts College of art and Design, Boston, MA, Fall 2013
- 2012
- Teaching Assistant, Drawing Class I, Evelyn Rydz, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA, Fall 2012
- Teaching Assistant, Interrelated Media Practice, Elaine Buckholz, Massachusetts College of art and Design, Boston, MA, Spring 2012
- 2011
- Teaching Assistant, Visual Language I, Evelyn Rydz,

- Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA, Fall 2011
- 2010
- Tutoring (Drawing, Art History) for pre-admission test for incoming students at Brera Academy of Fine Arts, Milan, 2008-2010

RESEARCH AND PROJECT COORDINATION EXPERIENCE

- 2012
- Research Assistant, Designer for Sustainable Massart Initiative, J.D.Marsching, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA, Fall 2012
- Research Assistant, Designer for Climate Culture, Art, Action, Climate, Change, J.D. Marsching, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA, Spring 2012
- 2010
- Workshop, Set Designer for Wozzeck, Brera Theater, Academy of Fine Arts Brera, Milan, Italy 2010
- 2008
- Workshop, Scuola Internazionale d’Illustrazione S.Zavrel, Sarmede, Summer 2008

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

- 2017
- Factuality and Utilization of early Photography, Bibliotheca Hertziana- Max-Planck-Institut für Kunstgeschichte, Deutsches Achäologisches Institut Rom

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017
- Cusanuswerk Promotion Stipendium,

- 2014
- Cusanuswerk Bischöfliche Studienförderung
- Tie for 2nd and 3rd Place Winners, Emerging Focus Barcelona, Photo I.a. Los Angeles International Photographic Arts Exposition, June 2014
- 2014
- Top 20 Finalists Emerging Focus Barcelona, Photo I.a. Los Angeles International Photographic Arts Exposition, June 2014
- 2009
- The Walt Disney Academy, “Freedom to create”, Milan, <http://www.ateliergluckarte.org/freedom/> Italy, 2009
- 2009
- Bridge Point and Studio Arnaboldi and Partners, Art and Design, Milan, Italy 2009

PRIVATE & MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

- 2014
- Musée de l’Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2009
- Bridge Point, Art and Design, Milan, Italy

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