

PRESS RELEASE

Jitka Hanzlová

The Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the second solo exhibition by the Czech artist Jitka Hanzlová (1958) who lives and works in Essen, Germany. The new series of photographs, entitled '*Female*', is a compilation of approximately 50 portraits of women of various ages. The series was created between 1997 and 2000 and shows a multifaceted portrait of contemporary female identity.

In her photographs Jitka Hanzlová perceives everyday and incidental events. For this series she photographed women she met on her various travels to European and American cities. The images often arose spontaneously at the place of the meeting, or by appointment the next day. The women are portrayed as individuals with specific irregularities and facial features, which do not allow for stereotypical classification.

The people we meet in these portraits are anonymous. In most cases the title only mentions their first name, in some instances even this has been left out. The identity, the profession and the living conditions of these models remain unknown to us. Even when Hanzlová seemingly reveals some biographical details about the subjects she observes, her images never become voyeuristic. On the contrary, as an artist she has the utmost respect for the women she portrays and cautiously tries to capture their self-assertion on film. Though the emphasis is on the women, they are always related to mostly urban surroundings, its colours and atmospheres. Subject and background interact directly. This synthesis gives each of Hanzlová's photographs a unique expression.

Last year Jitka Hanzlová was nominated for the Citibank Prize 2000. She recently had a solo exhibition in the Deichtorhallen Hamburg. Right at this moment she has a solo show in the Photomuseum Winterthur in Switzerland. On March 16 a big retrospective of her work will open in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

The Bakery

The English artist Dan Geesin (1970), who lives in the Netherlands, makes installations, videos, (cartoon) films and music. In many of his works he creates a different world which the audience is invited to enter. Little stories, mysterious events, strange fantasies, fears or dreams all come to life before the eyes of the viewer. In the work '*From the Forest*', too, one is introduced into a kind of fairy-tale like world inhabited by strange and mutilated creatures, half-naked ladies, wolflike sheep, farmers, cowboys and all kinds of other creatures which Geesin carved out of the wood of Norwegian trees. Geesin made the wooden sculptures for this installation during his residence last year at the Nordic Artists' Centre Dale in Sunnfjord. The sculptures resemble three-dimensional drawings which seem to come to life in space.

Dan Geesin studied at De Ateliers in Amsterdam in 1996. Last year he had a solo exhibition in *Arti et Amicitiae* in Amsterdam and participated in the International Film Festival Rotterdam; in February 2001 he had a solo exhibition in *Artis* in Den Bosch. At the opening of the exhibition Geesin will give a live performance.

The exhibition will be on view from March 17 thru April 21, 2001. The opening will be on Saturday March 17 from 5 until 7 pm. Prices start at \$ 500,- Gallery hours of the Annet Gelink Gallery are Tuesday thru Friday from 11 to 6pm; on Saturday and the first Sunday of the month from 1 until 5 pm. For more information please contact Danila Cahen or Anika Ohlerich.