

PRESS RELEASE

Hellen van Meene

Tokyo Girls -A Sense of You, Created by Me

2006年3月17日(金) - 4月12日(水) / 月曜日休館
17 March(Fri.) - 12 April (Wed.) 2006 / Closed on Mondays

TOKYO WONDER SITE

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Invitation to
Hellen van Meene
Tokyo Girls-A Sense of You, Created by Me
Press Preview

Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya will be hosting Tokyo Girls-A Sense of You, Created by Me from March 17(Fri) to April 12 (Wed). Celebrating an opening of the exhibition together, we would like to invite you to the opening party starting at 19:00 on Thursday, March 16, 2006.

Date; March 16, 2006. (Thursday)

Venue; Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya

Time; 19:00-

At that party, we will have the artist talk. We believe that you will delightfully enjoy seeing some of her latest works and hearing ideas directory from the artist.

Pease find an attached registration form. If you would like to attend the press preview, please fill in the necessary information and fax us by March 10th, 2006.

For more information about the exhibition and the opening party, please mail to info@tokyo-ws or call us at 03-3463-0603. We are sincerely looking forward to seeing you at the party.

Sincerely yours.


Yusaku Imamura

Director of Tokyo Wonder Site
Counselor on Special to the Governor
Tokyo Metropolitan Government

© Please show your envelope for this letter at the reception desk for entrance.
© In case you do not attend the reception, the envelope allows two visitors to enter the exhibition free of charge during its period.

Hellen van Meene

Tokyo Girls-A Sense of You, Created by Me

"Tokyo Girls" – but still "Untitled"

How do people living in Tokyo today encounter this city's young girls?

As soon as we label something we see with a name and a notion, we lock it into a certain category, where our attention gets diverted from that specific object itself. Accordingly, "Tokyo Girls" is likely to be understood as nothing more than the category of "girls in Tokyo".

Hellen van Meene continues work on her "Untitled" series, showing individuals whose empty gaze turns them into ambiguous "things" that are indeed difficult to entitle. The little stories the photographer sets up between her subjects and herself are ingredients that make the results interpretable in various ways, whereas that transparency and unconstraint in the eyes of the subject is always the key to the photographs' allurements

Through her portraits of female Tokyoites, Hellen van Meene presents us with an opportunity to encounter those Tokyo girls in a proper manner. Through their stories, we will certainly also encounter that same "something" in ourselves.

Yusaku Imamura

Director, Tokyo Wonder Site

Counselor on Special Issues to the Governor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Hellen van Meene

Alkmaar, 1972.

Lives and works in Heiloo

The girl in the portrait titled St. Petersburg (2004) by Hellen van Meene is hardly more than a child, unaware of the hint of adulthood that is already perceptible under the surface. Nearly all Van Meene's subjects are pubescent girls in whom the innocence of childhood prevails. Sometimes there is a touch of sensual femininity in their pose or gaze. Above all, the photographs reveal the sitters' insecurity about their own identity. Their air of



vulnerability is intensified by the strange dresses and shifts they have been given to wear. They are at once gauche and sensual, vulnerable and proud, and all radiate a sense of loneliness and longing. In keeping with the experimental phase her models are going through, Van Meene gives them all sorts of roles to play. The young girls she portrays are still in the dark as far as their own limits and possibilities are concerned.

Shooting sessions are conducted according to a detailed regime. Backgrounds, poses, fabrics, colors and lighting are all carefully staged. She frequently opts for what is known in cinematography as a 'medium shot', which enables her to incorporate the decor in the image while retaining the impression of proximity. For her early work Van Meene picked models in her immediate surroundings.

In 2000 she traveled to Japan, spending time in Tokyo, Atami, Osaka and Kyoto, where she approached girls in public places and then photographed them in their homes. Since then Van Meene has travelled each year. Recent series have been shot in Riga (Latvia, 2004), St. Petersburg (Russia, 2004), and London (UK, 2005). Many of these portraits have been made not after making appointments but directly on the spot where she met her models. Another new development in her work is the inclusion of boys as models and experiments with group portraits.

Biography

1972 Born in Alkmaar
1992-96 Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Photography, Amsterdam
1995 College of Art, Edinburgh, Scotland

Solo exhibitions

1998 Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam
1999 Galerie Dijk 1, Alkmaar
1999 The Photographers' Gallery, London, (cat.)
2000 De Vleeshal, Middelburg
2000 Le Case d'Arte, Milano
2000 Galleria Laura Pecci, Milano
2000 Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam
2000 Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles
2000 Sadie Coles HQ, London
2000 Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
2001 Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles
2001 Matthew Marks Gallery, New York
2002 Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, (cat) Japan Series
2002 Frans Hals Museum, de Hallen, Haarlem, (cat) Japan Series
2002 Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, (cat) Japan Series
2002 PhotoFestival Espania, Madrid
2003 Gallery Rodolphe Janssen solo show, Brussels September 2003
2003 Le Case d'Arte, Milaan, November 2003
2006 Pump House Gallery, London UK 22 March– 14 May Battersea Park Hellen van Meene / New Works is a Pump House Gallery Touring Exhibition and will tour to Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool and Focal Point Gallery, Southend- on-Sea in 2006/7.
2006 Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo April- May
2006 Huis Marseille , Amsterdam autumn 2006
2006 Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany, December 2006

Hellen van Meene

Tokyo Girls—A Sense of You, Created by Me

This will be the first major solo presentation of her works in Japan after 2000 by Hellen van Meene, known for her portraits of mostly young girls. Even though the artist states that is not her intention to give expression to the models' personality or state of mind, she is the master in capturing the uncertain nature of adolescent identities - by staging them carefully, entwined and encumbered the surrounding elements: a young girl lies still between the couch cushions; another's hair is weaved through a fence and another appears with her tracksuit wound tightly around her chest and a tree behind her, or by putting clothing perfectly ill-fitting on the model.

At Tokyo Wonder Site, the artist will present the project "Tokyo Girls-A Sense of You, Created by Me", a portfolio of fifteen photographs of young Japanese, which were originally commissioned by the New York Times magazine for their issue published in April 2005. The series has never been exhibited anywhere else and we believe that it would be a perfect opportunity to premier the work to the Japanese audience for the first time, at Tokyo Wonder Site which is located in Shibuya, where adolescents gather everyday. The presentation will give Japanese people a new perspective on the Japanese adolescents through eyes of a Dutch artist. Moreover, we would like to make a contribution to the promotion of the grass-roots exchange of the Netherlands and Japanese culture by appealing to young audience.

Period	March 17 (Fri)- April 12 (Wed), 2006
Open Hours	11:00-19:00 (Admission available until 30 minutes before closing time.)
Closed	Monday (Tuesday if the Monday is a public holiday)
Admission	¥500

Organized by	Tokyo Wonder Site
Supported by	The Royal Netherlands Embassy
Curated by	Tokyo Wonder Site
Cooperation by	Gallery Koyanagi

■ Related Event

Opening Reception	March 16, 2006. (Thursday) 19:00~
Artist Talk	March 16, 2006. (Thursday) 20:00~

Venue

Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya

150-0041 1-19-8 Jinnan, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan

TEL: 03-3463-0603 FAX: 03-3463-0605

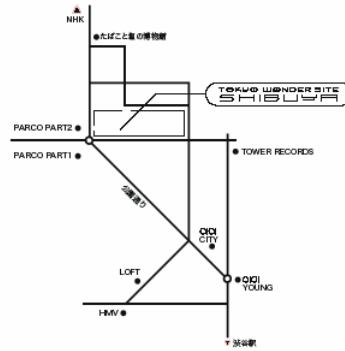
Email: info@tokyo-ws.org

URL: <http://www.tokyo-ws.org>

Access:

Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya is 8 minutes away from JR Shibuya Station. (JR Yamanote, Saikyo, Shonan-Shinjuku line/ Tokyu Toyoko · Denentoshi line/ Keio Inokashira line/ Tokyo Metro Ginza · Hanzomon line).

- There is no parking lot. Visitors are encouraged to use public transportation.



渋谷駅(JR 山手・埼京線・湘南新宿ライン/東急 東横線・田園都市線/京王 井の頭

線/東京メトロ 銀座・半蔵門線)より徒歩8分

駐車場はございませんので、お車でのご来館はご遠慮ください。

TOKYO WONDER SITE

Images

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ひびき酒造、吉兆宝山
他、全二種以上
厳選地酒 六〇〇円より
浦霞、酔鯨、蒼虎、雨
八海山、黒牛、久保田

③



④



Registration Form (fax)

To: Tokyo Wonder Site (Shibuya) FAX: **03-3463-0605**

Hellen van Meene

Tokyo Girls-A Sense of You, Created by Me

Press Preview

Name: _____

Name of Accompanying Person: _____

Job Title/Organization: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mark the box (example: ✓) if you would like to attend the Opening Reception and return the form by March 10 (Fri), 2005 (fax number indication at the top).

- I would like to attend the Opening Reception
March 16 (Thursday) 19:00-(Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya)
- I would like to attend the Opening Reception
March 16 (Thursday) 20:00-(Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya)

For further information:

Tokyo Wonder Site

1-19-8 Jinnan Shibuya-ku Tokyo, JAPAN 150-0041

Tel:03-3463-0603 Fax:03-3463-0605

Email: info@tokyo-ws.org URL: <http://www.tokyo-ws.org>