

For Immediate Release
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C'est quoi la femme?

**New Works by Lauren Bergman, Jean Grangeon, Katheryn Holt, Koosuke IRKT Ikeda,
Keun Young Park, and Marybeth Rothman**



September 13, 2012 - New York, NY: Tria Gallery presents *C'est quoi la femme?* featuring twelve paintings and mixed media works from six different artists, both men and women. The media employed by the artists are different (from oils and acrylics on canvas to encaustic and mixed media on panel). In addition, the style and mood of each piece is unique: the works on display range from representational to abstract. The common denominator is that each artist has

endeavored to capture the essence of the female animal in some way. The subjects range from Lucille Ball, to a 1920s “It” girl, to a demure geisha, each representing in its own way an aspect of the feminine mystique. While it can be argued that every woman is complex, unique, and ultimately unknowable, the works in *C’est quoi la femme?* do provide the viewer with a glimpse into the private lives of these vastly different women.

Lauren Bergman

The romanticized suburban setting found in Bergman’s work is used not as a record of a specific place, but as a setting to an exploration of the fears and uncertainties that nip at the edges of the post-feminist landscape. By referencing the mid-twentieth century, a period that exists in the cultural memory as an unparalleled time of American prosperity, the immediacy of the issues is removed from our current cultural climate and allows for emotional distance and perspective, exposing the lack of intellectual progression. Bergman’s work probes a loss of cultural optimism and the ongoing irresolution of such post-feminist issues as sexuality versus intellectualism, passivity and acquiescence versus ambition. The work courts irony and the inner narratives are playful, yet confront the conflicting expectations of contemporary culture and the intricately complex ways in which women form their identities.

Bergman grew up in Washington, D.C., before relocating to Manhattan in 1987 to study painting and design at Parson’s School of Design and The Art Students League in New York. She also received a Masters of Education from Smith College. Her work has been exhibited around the country in solo and group exhibitions. Bergman currently lives and works in Manhattan.

Jean Grangeon

Grangeon draws his inspiration from art history and literature, with a special interest in the artwork of de Chirico, Muybridge, and Bacon, and the writing of Dostoevsky, Sartre, Camus and Zola, to name a few. These references result in much contemplation and long incubation periods prior to Grangeon undertaking a new project or direction in his work, as was the case with his recent Women’s Portrait Series. As he further explains, “balance is also an important point in my compositions: lines, colors and volumes are the words I use to investigate the origins of the intimate material on which I draw to express myself. Rich textures, treated in very thin layers to promote transparency, are the aesthetic pretenses used to discover the mechanisms of human thought.” Indeed, the curvilinear shapes and forms in his works in *C’est quoi la femme?* seem to reveal deconstructed, abstract women. The titles, “Mixed Emotions” and “Compression” add a psychological component to the paintings and perhaps some insight into Grangeon’s depiction of his subjects.

Grangeon is an established young artist who has exhibited his work in venues throughout the United States and Europe. He spent a year in Paris in 2002 where he participated in the Salon d’Automne 2002 and became a finalist in the youngest artist category. After this first success he pursued his artistic career in New York City, installing his studio in the heart of the Williamsburg art community. During this period he showed at A Space Gallery, Puccio Gallery, Biche de Bere, and the French Consulate, to name a few. Since 2008 he has lived and worked in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he continues to create and exhibit his work. Grangeon has Masters degrees in Science Biology (University of Sciences, Marseille) and in Healthcare Company Management (EuroMed Management, Marseille).

Katheryn Holt

Holt explains that her figurative paintings and drawings “occupy a place between the private realm of memory and the more public realm of documentation and staging of women in television, print and film”.

Beneath the figures are silk-screened images and text derived from historical family photos, Victorian book illustrations, and vintage magazine beauty and cleaning advertisements. Excerpts of dialogue taken from television scripts written by Holt's father, a television and film writer in the 60s and 70s, appear as well. Although these resonant signifiers are personal to Holt they are also reminders "of a collective history we perhaps share in relation to media influence most particularly held by the generation of women who came of age during the feminist revolution in the 1960s and 70s". The costumes worn by these iconic leading ladies inform her work in series and uniform patterns. "Through the use of transparent glaze and gestural sweeps of graphic linoleum colors, the women are framed and a light is cast upon them illuminating their form and revealing their function, which is to share their inner life and history with their audience" -- if only for a moment.

Holt has had over a dozen one or two artist exhibits on the west and east coasts, as well as countless group exhibitions. She studied Master Painting at the Slade School in London, studied at the University of Southern California and received her BFA from The Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. She has been an instructor at The School of Visual Arts, a frequent lecturer and writer on the subject of art and illustration, and her work graces homes and corporate collections throughout the country. Ms. Holt divides her time between studios in Northern California and New York City.

Koosuke IRKT Ikeda

"IRKT" (I-ru-ku-to) (Individual Relative K(C)ontradiction Theory) is the conceptual design for the art and indeed all of the creations of artist Koosuke Ikeda (called "IRKT"). He states that his interest in creating art:

arises out of the desire to pursue the concept of the self, exposing the contradictions, which exist internally and externally. A journey to find myself has continued since I was a child. Having lived on three different continents, I have always been asking 'who am I?' and 'what is my identity?' I was confused by my own nationality, ethnicity and myself. Wherever I was, I could not embrace myself; I was not home.

Of his work in *C'est quoi la femme?*, IRKT says that each woman he depicts is trying to analyze herself objectively but cannot really do so. "There is a gap between the woman that she thinks she is and the woman she is thought to be by others". For instance, IRKT believes that if this woman were to ask 100 friends what they thought of her, there would be 100 different perceptions. She is, therefore, like the rest of us, a jigsaw puzzle of perceptions.

Koosuke IRKT Ikeda was born in the United States and raised in the United Kingdom, Japan and France. His work has been exhibited all over the world. He has lived and worked in New York City since 2004.

Keun Young Park

Of her inspirations and process, Park states:

In my work, I reflect upon the astatic character of existence in the flow of time as well as the opposite sides of nature – negative and positive, construction and destruction, presence and absence, and life and death. I believe that everything is constantly changing, either being generated or destroyed. Presence is just a state of being and the reality of an object has ambiguity in this shifting. Through this process of breaking down photo images and recomposing them,

figures have thousands of tiny particles and textures that make the images look blurry and tremulous.

“Floating Pink Arm”, Park’s piece featured in *C’est quoi la femme?*, is a recent work from her “Dream Series”. Here Park reveals a more narrative story than in her past work, imagining a territory, as she describes, which is “beyond consciousness”--- an awakening of the female spirit.

Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, Park received her BFA and MFA from Seoul National University. After working and exhibiting her work throughout Korea, she relocated to Brooklyn six years ago, and began showing her work in galleries and exhibiting her work in art fairs throughout the U.S. She has competed in and received first prize in numerous juried shows. She won the Curator’s Choice Award at ATA0 in New York in 2008 and was the recipient of a recent A.I.R. Gallery Fellowship.

Marybeth Rothman

Rothman uses vintage photographs as the foundation and inspiration for her encaustic mixed media paintings. She deconstructs the images to create moving, figurative images through a fusion of encaustic, paint, graphite drawings and solar plate etchings. Her work in *C’est quoi la femme?* consists of strong, compelling images of women that “unravel a fleeting moment, defined by time and circumstance.” She explains:

My work is a journal of human contact about strangers, juxtaposing the figure with an abstract form or other echoing counterpart. My collection of thousands of orphaned, vintage photographs is the catalyst for my paintings... I am intrigued by the conflicting, reciprocal, and parallel relationships of people, objects and environment in a photographic image.

Rothman earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been shown in dozens of solo and group exhibits across the country, and she is the recipient of numerous honors and awards for her work in encaustics. Her work was recently featured at the Heckscher Museum in Huntington, New York in an exhibition entitled “Ripped: The Allure of Collage”, along with works by Romare Bearden, Salvador Dali, Jean Arp, and others.

It is the mission of Tria Gallery to exhibit a balance of established artists with impressive resumes and exciting young talent, showing representational and abstract work, painting, sculpture, mixed media and installations. The common denominator is that the Tria artist has a unique, authentic voice and a compelling body of work which the directors feel should be given an audience.

Tria is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12 to 6 pm, or by appointment. *C’est quoi la femme?* opens September 13 and remains on exhibition through December 8, 2012. For more information, please visit www.triagallerynyc.com.