

PRESS RELEASE

Kourtney Roy
Queen of Nowhere

Exhibition 02.06.2022 – 15.09.2022**Opening** Thursday, June 2 2022, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., in presence of the artist

Text :
Sylvie Hugues

Who is Kourtney Roy ?

By turns rebel woman, fatal beauty or overworked housewife, the photographer plays with stereotypes and enjoys taking on different roles to blur the lines in her colourful self-portraits.

Born in Ontario, Canada, her father was a cowboy... it is not surprising that she conceives the world as a vast movie set ready to welcome her fantasy. Urban landscapes or desert expanses become a set waiting for the artist's entrance.

Quite an artist... Able to take on all the jobs : from the storyboard she imagines to the styling, including framing, lighting, make-up, directing actors... Kourtney Roy is definitely a jack-of-all-trades.

If the idea of posing in front of the camera while transforming herself is not new - some compare her to Cindy Sherman - few photographers manage to achieve such a degree of perfection in the staging. Without forgetting what makes her work so special, the humour that is always present in her creations.

The exhibition *Queen of Nowhere* presented at the Galerie Esther Woerdehoff cleverly reminds us of this by mixing several series made over a decade. *Enter as fiction*, my favourite, which I chose to exhibit at the Festival du Regard in Cergy-Pontoise as part of the «Intime and Autofiction» theme, but also *Sorry, No Vacancy* and the one that was the subject of her latest book *The Tourist*, undoubtedly the most mature...

Did her transition to the fortyish got the better of the enfant terrible ? On the contrary, here she is, more glamorous than ever, accompanied by handsome men with bulging muscles ; Sue Ellen, not yet decadent but already a great lover of cocktails, abandoning the atmosphere of film noir for technicolor blockbusters. As you can see, Kourtney's self-mockery reigns supreme, which goes without saying for a Queen of Nowhere...

Images available
for the press



Kourtney Roy, *The Tourist, Yellow Boat*,
Pigment inkjet print on archival paper
60 × 90 cm



Kourtney Roy, *Enter as fiction 24*,
Pigment inkjet print on archival paper
60 × 90 cm

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Obligatory mention : ©Kourtney Roy courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

Images available
for the press



Kourtney Roy, *Sorry, No Vacancy 9*,
Pigment inkjet print on archival paper
100 × 150 cm



Kourtney Roy, *Enter as fiction 6*,
Pigment inkjet print on archival paper
80 × 120 cm

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Obligatory mention : ©Kourtney Roy courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

BIOGRAPHY

Artist

Kourtney Roy

Kourtney Roy was born in 1981 in Ontario, Canada. She studied Fine Arts at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in photography.

Kourtney Roy began making self-portraits at the university. Between fashion portraiture, theatricality and everyday photography, her work shows the cross-over influences between these worlds. Her work blends fiction and self-fiction, and explores the sublime and the strange in everyday life, in settings tinged with mystery.

Kourtney Roy has won numerous awards for her colourful, dreamlike and carefully crafted photographs.

Solo shows

2022

The Other End of the Rainbow, Festival Portraits, Vichy, France

Queen of Nowhere, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

The Tourist, Project 2.0 Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands

2021

Enter as Fiction, Festival du regard- Intime & Autofictions, Cergy-Pontoise, France

Survivalist Failures, Festival Bretagne Terre de photographies, Dol-de-Bretagne, France

Enter as Fiction, C'est Extra, Festival photo au grand air, Aulnoye-Aymeries, France

The Tourist, Festival Pluie d'images, Brest, France

2020

Survivalist Failures, Air Project Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2019

In Dreams You're Mine, Incadaqués International Photo Festival, Cadaqués, Spain

2018

Beautiful, Paris Photo, Lauréate Prix Carte Blanche Pernod Ricard, Paris

I Drink, Musée de la Photographie, sous la direction de François Cheval, Lianzhou, China

2017

Enter as Fiction, Moscou Art Biennale, Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, Russia

The Dreamers, Le Château d'Eau, Toulouse, France

Enter as Fiction, KM Fine Arts Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

Sorry, No Vacancy, Galerie Hug, Paris, France

2015

Enter as Fiction, Galerie Hug, Paris, France

2014

Ils pensent déjà que je suis folle, Carte Blanche PMU, Le Bal, Paris, France

Fixed In No-Time, Galerie Hug, Paris, France

2013

Head On Photo Festival, Sydney, Australia

2008

Self-Portraits, Hôtel de l'Amphithéâtre, Arles, France

Group shows

2021

Paris Photo, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

Esprit Urbain, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

Azimut, Centre d'art et de photographie de Lectoure, Lectoure, France

2020

Azimut, Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône, France

2017

Enter as Fiction, Belfast Photo Festival, Belfast, Ireland

2016

Picture in Translation, Air Project Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

C'est Encore Moi, L'imagerie, Lannion, France

2015

Festival Portrait(s), Centre Culturel Valéry Larbaud, Vichy, France

Lauréates du Prix Élysée, Musée Élysée, Lausanne, Switzerland

Ce Qu'ils Sont Devenus, Le Bal, Paris, France

2012

Planche(s) Contact Festival, Patrick Remy (directeur artistique), Deauville, France

Images Festival, Vevey, Switzerland

Circulations, Parc de Bagatelle, Paris, France

Publications

2022

Kourtney Roy, Gladys Radek, François Cheval, *The Other End of the Rainbow*, Éditions André Frère

Kourtney Roy, *Queen of Nowhere*, iikki books

Kourtney Roy, *Survivalist Failures*, Éditions Filigranes

2020

Kourtney Roy, *The Tourist*, Éditions André Frère

Tendance Floue et ses invités, *AZIMUT Une marche photographique en France*, Paris, Éditions Textuel

2019

Kourtney Roy, *In Dreams You're Mine*, International Photo Festival Incadaqués

2016

Kourtney Roy, *California*, Paris, Éditions Louis Vuitton

Kourtney Roy, *Northern Noir*, Paris, Éditions La Pionnière

2015

Kourtney Roy, *Enter as Fiction*, Paris, Éditions Filigranes

2014

Kourtney Roy, *Ils pensent déjà que je suis folle*, Paris, Éditions Filigranes

Collections

La Collection de la Bibliothèque nationale de France, série *Middle of Fucking Nowhere (AZIMUT)*, Paris, France
La Collection de Rencontres d'Arles, *Ils pensent déjà que je suis folle N°26*, Arles, France
Le Château d'Eau, *Northern Noir N°26*, Toulouse, France
Maison Européen de la Photographie, *Enter as Fiction N° 72*, Paris, France
Musée Élysée, série *Hope*, Lausanne, Suisse

Awards**2022**

Winner, the photographic commission of the ministry of culture, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France

2020

Winner « Mention Spéciale », for the book : *The Other End of the Rainbow*, Luma Rencontres Dummy Book Award Arles 2020, France

2019

Lauréate de prix OVNI pour le court métrage; *Morning, Vegas*, Brest European Short Film Festival, Brest, France

2018

Beneficiary, Centre National des Arts Plastiques support for contemporary documentary photography, France
Winner, Prix Carte Blanche Pernod Ricard

2015

Canada Council for the Arts grant

2014

Nominated, Prix Élysée, Musée Élysée, Lausanne, Switzerland

2013

Winner, La Carte Blanche PMU/Le Bal, Paris, France

2012

Winner, Emily Award : annual prize awarded to an alumnus who has distinguished himself/herself in art. Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada

2008

Winner, Screenings Awards, Berlin, Deutschland