

## Club Series

### Lydia Goldblatt & Lucy Levene

23<sup>rd</sup> September - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm, Thursday 10am - 8pm

**Club Series** encompasses two photographic projects taken at The Ministry of Sound nightclub in London over a three-month period. Although ideas inevitably overlapped, such as the areas of truth and reality in relation to the documented image, the photographers worked separately and the two resulting series maintain their own distinct identities.

**Club Series** was initiated by Lucy Levene in 2004 during her MA in Photography at the Royal College of Art and refers to texts written by the philosopher Denis Diderot between 1759 and 1781 about the methods in which an artist can persuade an audience of his paintings' truthfulness through making his subject appear absorbed in concentration. He believed that the more convinced we (as viewers) are that the subject is not aware of being beheld, the more convincing the illusion of 'reality'.

Looking at how contemporary artists such as Jeff Wall and Philip-Lorca Di Corcia use construction to create these absorptive qualities - producing images that tend towards the pictorial unity and resonance of 19<sup>th</sup> century Realism represented by painters such as Courbet - Levene "wanted to further explore the duality between the staged tableaux and the 'documentary' photographic image. Could the pictorial unity and resonance of 19<sup>th</sup> century Realism be conveyed within unstaged photographic images?"

Goldblatt's images use an implied narrative within the clubbing experience to represent a generation for whom fantasy is an essential component of life. Her images combine long exposures and available light, producing a saturated, glowing palette that is simultaneously seductive and repellent and echoes the sense of fantasy provided by the setting. An array of self-absorbed individuals inhabit the images, engaged in activities that isolate them from a connection to their surroundings. They are a group of people occupying a space designed to reject reality and the work draws on the peculiar blend of fantasy, desire and anonymity that exists within the urban world, particularly in its nocturnal form.

Lydia Goldblatt is currently studying for her MA at the University of Arts London. She has received commissions by the Guardian Weekend Magazine and by international brands such as Pepsi, Guinness, Renault and Citroen. She is represented by the Millennium Agency in the UK.

Lucy Levene has exhibited and been published internationally. She is included in the Thames and Hudson publication and touring exhibition 'ReGeneration: 50 Photographers of Tomorrow, 2005-2025', at the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne (to 23 October) before moving to Aperture Magazine's new gallery space in New York in 2006. She is represented in the USA by 511 Gallery, New York.

#### Evening Event

**Lydia Goldblatt and Lucy Levene in conversation with Magda Keaney**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm**

**Tickets £3.00**

Magda is currently based in the curatorial department at the National Portrait Gallery following two years working at the internationally renowned agency M.A.P. (London and New York), who represent both commercial and fine art photographers including Philip-Lorca Di Corcia. She was previously a curator at the Australian National Portrait Gallery and continues to write about photo-based projects in Australia as well as in the UK.

#### Exhibition layout

Large works by Lucy Levene

Smaller works by Lydia Goldblatt

gallery • picture library •

education & training •

darkrooms • studio •

new media workroom

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