

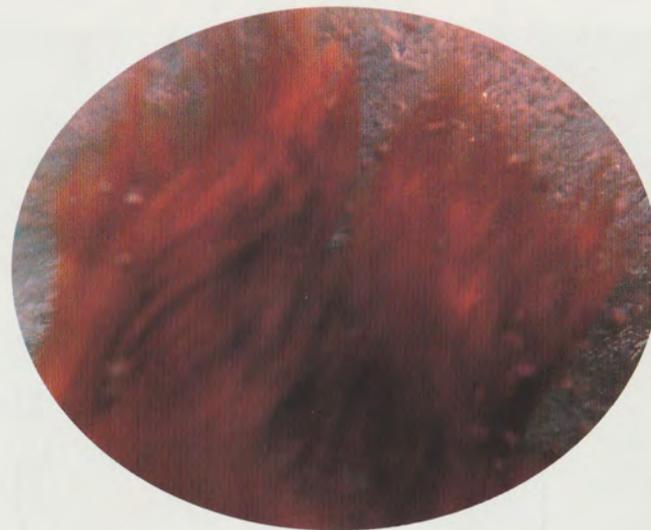
SIGNALS The Festival of Women Photographers

Material World Eva Schlegel, Sabine Bitter, Aglaia Konrad

Britta Jaschinski

Simone Douglas Aberrations

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY EXHIBITION GUIDE



Simone Douglas, *Untitled*, 1986/92

Simone Douglas Aberrations

Portfolio Room

Simone Douglas's poetic images explore our perception of the world around us. They survey the periphery of vision, the vague shapes and forms seen out of the corner of the eye which the mind conjures with in search of meaning. Douglas's world is that of things half-seen, half-recognised and half-remembered; images that linger in the depths of memory; things absorbed but not fully comprehended.

Large vertical and horizontal photographs, unframed and simply mounted, anchor an array of small oval frames, scattered across the wall like musical notation. There is no narrative linking these images; they exist as separate fragments of a greater whole, each a glimpse, a faint and momentary view. Douglas's aim is not to describe the world but to explore the way in which we experience it, the mind piecing together a plethora of tiny observations.

Figures, shown always in partial view, seem submerged and suspended in dark and watery depths. Feet tread water; a hand reaches out, groping tentatively towards us; faces with closed eyes seem to strain in confusion. Their movements are uncertain and exploratory, as if seeking sense of their surroundings.

Divorced from time and space, they have no context, no place within a real world. Instead they hover in a state of limbo, lost and disorientated, as if waking from a deep sleep, straining towards consciousness.

Interspersed are more ambiguous images, richly coloured and emotionally charged. They suggest sunsets, dark and brooding skies, the play of light on water. Both in form and presentation they have affinities with the world of painting. In their romantic sensibility, powerful emotional pull and grand sweeps of sumptuous colour they call to mind the landscapes and skies of JWM Turner or Caspar David Friedrich. Hung in ornate gold frames they could masquerade as oil paintings in a museum or art gallery.

In juxtaposing images of physical presence with those of emotional power Simone Douglas is perhaps alluding to the combined states of mind and body which together create our perception of the world. Certainly her evocative and compelling photographs encourage us to explore those hazy areas where memory and the imagination merge, where we can no longer tell what is real, what imagined, how much remembered, how much created.

events

Booking is advisable for all events. Members will be given priority booking before 12 september.

Material World teachers' evening

monday 12 september 6pm

Ruth Charity, curator of Material World, leads a discussion for teachers
Free. Refreshments provided.

Austrian World illustrated talk

wednesday 14 september 7pm

Christine Frisinghelli, writer, curator, and editor of Camera Austria, presents an illustrated talk placing the work of the artists in Material World in the context of contemporary Austrian photography.

Friday lunchtime talks

Artists Jacqueline Pennell and Marysia Lewandowska introduce Material World in a series of informal talks at 1pm in the exhibition. Free.

Marysia Lewandowska

Friday 2 september and 9 september

Jacqueline Pennell

Friday 16 september and 23 september

The Photographers' Gallery

5 + 8 Great Newport Street,
London WC2H 7HY
Telephone 071 831 1772
Fax 071 836 9704
Minicom 071 379 6057

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