



Marc Lagrange

(Belgian, 1957 - 25.12.2015)

Kenya Tree

Silvergelatine
45 x 35 cm / 17.7 x 13.8 inch

EXHIBITED

2019 Photo London, SmithDavidson Gallery

BIOGRAPHY

(Marc Lagrange)



Filled with longing and sensuality, Marc Lagrange's photographs celebrate fantasies and desire—placing beauty and dreams at the center of his world. Lagrange was born in Kinshasa, Congo, in 1957. His career path led him from engineering to photography, and his reactivity from fashion to art. Privileging analog over digital, the Antwerp-based Belgian artist searches for intimacy and emotion as opposed to artificial effects. His giant Polaroids—which have been exhibited worldwide—are a powerful example of his craft as well as his attention to detail: he can display the texture of skin, highlight natural curves and make his models stand out. Lagrange elaborates entire sets until he finds the exact mood he wishes to convey, with the end goal being to create the images he wants. From the color of the walls to the shape of a chair, every single detail counts, underlining Lagrange's perfectionist streak and his willingness to unfold narratives.

Throughout his career, Lagrange has photographed the same women over different periods of time, turning them into his muses. Inge Van Bruystegem—a striking model and talented dancer—is one of them. Lagrange has been working with her for more than fifteen years, developing a privileged relationship. The trust that has flourished between them over the years is quite rare in photography and still generates surprising results. Individuals who pose in front of Lagrange's lens end up spontaneously performing and revealing more about themselves than they perhaps intended to. One thing Lagrange respects is the mystery and power of women: even fully nude, his models are confident and in control; real protagonists as opposed to passive figures.

In 2012, Delvaux—the oldest luxury leather goods house in the world—commissioned Lagrange with portraits of women from different generations depicting their relationship with their handbags. Seductive and elegant, the black-and-white photographs gave birth to a new series that has been ongoing. In 2014,

Lagrange traveled to New York to shoot iconic women and the results were wonderful. From Carmen Dell'Orefice to Zani Gugelmann, he met some of Manhattan's most stylish and influential women and captured their strength and charisma. The series was named *Timeless Beauties* and subsequent trips to China, Japan and other key destinations for Delvaux were organized. Since 2008, Lagrange has additionally developed his video work, including a film for the fashion brand Supertrash's fragrance launch. In 2012, he also filmed Liesa Van der Aa's clip for *Louisa's Bolero*.

Marc Lagrange's work has been honored with several exhibitions in Europe and the United States. In 2011, *Maison Lagrange* introduced more than 240 artworks to the public, many of them previously unseen. The retrospective lasted six months. The following year, his *Extra Large Marc Lagrange* show in Graz, Austria, spread over 3,000 square meters. Lagrange also participates in Art Miami on a regular basis, and several books have been published under his name, including *Polarized* by Ludion in 2009 and *Marc Lagrange XXML* by Lido in 2009. In 2013, *Diamonds and Pearls* was published by teNeues in 80 countries. The following year, in 2014, he published *Hotel Maritime – Room #58*, a private edition limited to 300 copies whose content was shown internationally. The atmosphere of *Hotel Maritime – Room #58* echoes some of Edward Hopper's most soulful and alluring paintings. More conceptual than his previous works, it underlines the descriptive quality of his art.

In 2015, a selection of Lagrange's iconic works was featured at the TEFAF art fair in Maastricht, the Netherlands. *Senza Parole*, which partly took place in the Italian town of Pietrasanta, coupled with the *Handelsbeurs* project in Antwerp, Belgium and a Fellini inspired shoot at the baroque loft of Paolo Calia in Paris, these three series are part of this new book. Marc Lagrange kept looking for singular subjects and unexpected stories, placing humanity at the core of his approach.

Marc Lagrange passed away suddenly on Christmas Day 2015, due to an accident in Tenerife, Spain.

LITERATURE

2019 Art New York, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA

2017 CHOCOLATE box by Marc Lagrange

2015 Senza Parole, published by TeNeues

2014 Hotel Maritime - Room 58, limited in 300 copies

2013 Diamonds and Pearls, published by TeNeues

2012 XXML the Big Book, collectors edition

2009 Marc Lagrange 20, published by Lido

2009 Polarized, published by Ludion

EXHIBITIONS

2019 Photo London

2018 Chocolate; The Chocolate Polaroid exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam & Miami

2018 TEFAF Maastricht, SmithDavidson Gallery, Maastricht, The Netherlands

2017 Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA

2017 Timeless Beauty, Archeological Museum Tongeren, Belgium

2016 Mix and Match Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2016 Art New York, New York, USA

2016 TEFAF Maastricht, SmithDavidson Gallery, Maastricht, The Netherlands

2015 Art Miami, Miami, USA

2015 PAN Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015 Art Silicon Valley / San Francisco, San Mateo, USA

2015 Presentation of Senza Parole, Paris, France

2015 Global Art Exhibition, SmithDavidson Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015 Premiere at TEFAF with Leslie Smith Gallery (SmithDavidson), Maastricht, The Netherlands

2015 Marc Lagrange Solo Exhibition, Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2014 Art Miami, Miami, USA

2014 Art Up, Lille, France

2014 PAN Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2013 Lille Art Fair, Grand Palais, Lille, France

2013 Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany

2013 Mia - Milan Art Fair, Italy

2012 LA Art Platform Fair, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

2012 Fotofever Brussels, Belgium

2012 Art Miami, Miami, U.S.A.

2012 Solo: Extra Large Marc Lagrange, Graz, Austria

2012 Art Hamptons, New York, U.S.A.

2011 Lineart Art Fair, Gent, Flanders Expo, Belgium

2011 Solo: Maison Lagrange, Antwerp, Belgium

2011 Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris, France

2010 Lineart International Art Fair, Flanders Expo, Gent, Belgium

2010 Triumph Gallery, Moskou, Russia

2009 "Villa Amori", Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgium

2009 "Eelizee - Lust - Iconen", Abdijmuseum Ter Duinen, Koksijde, Belgium

2007 Houses of Art, Marbella, Spain

2006 Solo: FotoMuseum, Antwerp, Belgium