

Birds of a Feather

By Claire Rosen

Opening night **March 14, 2016, 7 PM**

Exhibition runs through **April 30, 2016**

Alserkal Avenue, Unit 36, Street 8, Al Quoz, Dubai



About the exhibition

A fascination with the natural world and far-off, “exotic” places came into vogue in Europe during the 19th century. The rise of colonization and the avid exploration of new territories yielded the European continent a new awareness of incredible creatures and vegetation from the most remote corners of the world.

Yet this fascination is not unique to recent centuries. In Ancient Rome the walls of imperial villas were adorned with frescos detailing rich flora and fauna. During the Renaissance, Rafael reinvented this ancient style through his grotesques, which depicted birds, fruits, and plant life. Carefully crafted representations of the natural world were re-imagined yet again in 19th century Britain when William Morris began producing richly ornamented wallpaper featuring wild birds and vegetation.

American photographer Claire Rosen breathes new life into this tradition, ushering it into the 21st century through her portraits of live birds photographed against complementary vintage and historical reproduction wallpaper. Her unique subjects – from the common Parakeet to the exotic Hyacinth Macaw – mirror the self-conscious poses of humans in

comical and unexpected ways while creating striking optical illusions and visual blending. The series brings the live and the man-made together. Simultaneously, the images hint at the dissonance created by the human desire to possess wild creatures by removing them from their natural environments.

The series Birds of a Feather has been shown throughout the USA, including exhibitions in Boston and New-York. **The exhibition at Gulf Photo Plus is the first solo show by the artist in UAE. It features 3 new images** – portraits of falcons and barn owl - made specifically for the show and at GPP's photo studio.

About Claire Rosen

Claire Rosen graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2006 with a BFA in photography. She received a liberal arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock in 2003. **In 2012 & 2013 Claire was included in Forbes "30 Brightest under 30" list for Art & Design.** Her work has also received awards from Communication Arts Photography Annual, International Photography Awards, Graphis Photo Annual, PDN Photo Annual, Prix de la Photographie, Sony World Awards and many more.

Claire's work has been featured in Complex Art+Design, Creative Quarterly Journal, Faded + Blurred, Fast Company, The Guardian UK Observer and many more. Claire has been exhibited from New York to Los Angeles and London to Bangkok and her work can be found in a number of public and private collections.

Her elaborate imagery uses universal themes of dreams, fairy tales and mythology to visually symbolize the many facets of the human condition. Her well thought through photography compositions are reminiscent of classical paintings, and evoke the aesthetic ideals of Pre-Raphaelite, Romantic and Gothic art. The dark and whimsical images often explore concepts of nostalgia, memory, femininity and depictions of the self, frequently referencing the Victorian Era with its fascination of the natural world and ideals of beauty.

About Gulf Photo Plus

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is Dubai's Photography Centre, dedicated to developing the knowledge and appreciation of photography through education, exhibitions, and a variety of events held throughout the year. Over the course of ten years, GPP has garnered an international reputation as a leader in photography events. It exists at the epicenter of the photography community in the MENA region, and continues to develop its international presence through its GPP PopUp events held around the world from Seattle to Singapore. GPP's annual calendar includes photography exhibitions, movie nights, free artist talks, regular photography workshops, and Slidifest evenings where local creatives can share personal projects and find new inspiration.



For further information about the exhibition, please, contact:

Anna Arutyunova

anna@gulfphotoplus.com

T: +971 4 380 8545

M: +971 56 1829137

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