

G A L E R I E G I S E L A C A P I T A I N

ANNA GASKELL - The Romantic Exiles

November 9 – December 21, 2013

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to announce the fifth solo exhibition by Anna Gaskell: *The Romantic Exiles*. The show focuses on Svetlana Lunkina, the former prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre who is now living in Canada after having received personal threats succeeding an assault on the Russian ballet company director.

Driven by the fascination for her muse, Gaskell draws a complex portrait of the Russian dancer. She attempts to picture her in all her facets by showing her in a film as well as in a number of photographs pinned to the gallery walls.

In the film & *Juliet* Svetlana dances one of the most famous ballet scenes: the balcony scene of Sergey Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. But, as already announced in the film title, she dances the duet as a solo – without Romeo. This is a gap that makes her strength visible and demonstrates her capability to compensate the absence of Romeo. At the same time this gap shows the ambiguity between her and the role she is playing: Svetlana becomes Juliet and herself again.

The idea of shifting characters is further pursued in the photographs covering the gallery walls like a diary. They illustrate Svetlana in different situations, but less as a professional dancer and more as a private person. It's a new experience for the artist, whose muses have always been fictional characters and never real persons. This new situation makes the interaction between two artists visible; it is a mutual inspiration.

To use different media is essential for Anna Gaskell. She works as a filmmaker, photographer and creates drawings as well. Within her oeuvre different media are linked together, they inform and condition each other. This can be seen for example in this exhibition where the movement of the film is frozen in the photographs in a manner reminiscent of Degas, but still present.

Anna Gaskell's exhibition formulates a multi-layered construct: Obviously dedicated to Svetlana and her personality, the exhibition raises general artistic questions such as the search for identification and for the source of inspiration. In addition, the breaks and gaps visualize the desire for completion and give an idea of what can be called exiles – Romantic Exiles.

Anna Gaskell and the prima ballerina Svetlana Lunkina will be present at the opening.