

S A M   S A M O R E

*Allegories of Beauty (Incomplete)*

September 16 - October 31, 1995

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"Allegories of Beauty (Incomplete)": The title of Sam Samore's new series of black and white photographs. Begun while living in Paris a few years ago. Motivated by countless visits to the Louvre. Influenced by innumerable pilgrimages to the bust of Nofretete (her name means "The Beautiful One Cometh") and Echnaton, after moving to Berlin in January of 1995.

This is the first solo exhibition of the new pictures, all dated 1995, in Europe. Samore makes the photographs: sometimes staging the individuals, sometimes creating montages, sometimes photographing verité, always reworking areas of the picture to bring out this and that.

No single exploration of beauty with this project. Therefore usage of the phrase "Incomplete" in the title. The "Search for Beauty" like the "Search for Truth"? Everything an illusion? Which mythology to believe in? These pictures are not narratives, with beginning, middle, end. Symbolic yes.

These pictures encourage individuality of the viewing subject. Opening up a space for the imaginary to roam. These photographs have a physical presence, but like the dark cinema absorb the projection of our desires, needs, ideals. There is pleasure of the body; lingering on eyes, lips, ears, noses, eyebrows can be delicious.

This project's affinities: no hierarchy in mind, naming only a few (i.e. incomplete). VISUAL ART: Munch, Picasso, Leonardo, Manet, Brancusi, De Kooning, Praxiteles, Clifford Still, Michelangelo. LITERATURE: Melville (Billy Budd, Sailor), Lady Shonagon, Shelley (Frankenstein), Plato (Phaedrus), Wilde (The Picture of Dorian Gray), Shakespeare, Victor Hugo (The Hunchback of Notre Dame), Sappho. FILM: Bergman, Godard, Hitchcock.

Sam Samore