

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



NORITOSHI HIRAKAWA

THE REASON OF LIFE

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 17, 1998

Deitch Projects is pleased to present three new photographic projects by Noritoshi Hirakawa in its Storefront Gallery. The artist has described the projects as follows:

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...a vicarious experience of death...I visited ten famous suicide spots in Switzerland, fixed the point one meter away from the place where the suicider stepped out, and decided the range of viewing scope toward the direction of gravity. The scene depicted is the place which welcomes a person's death, and probably is the gate to the last prelude from life to death which no one has ever talked about.

Those who have already knocked on this door do not have the means to talk about how beautiful is the scenery from the door to the last prelude. However, my photo series sadistically mesmerizes the viewer into wandering into the moment when s/he flies into the air and becomes vacuumed by gravity right after taking the first step.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CHRISTINA LEE AT DEITCH PROJECTS

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DEITCH PROJECTS Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6

Révélation de Printemps

In the spring of 1997 I visited le Musée Fabre in Montpellier and saw an oil painting entitled Une Jeune Fille (A Little Girl). I was reminded of how girls have historically been depicted in terms of sexuality as a subject of fantasy in French art. The girl is modeled after a real girl, but she is an innocent being created by the artist's imagination. She is not the image of the real girl, but a girl possessing the body of an innocent woman as an "idea" (ideal) apart from reality. As it is very difficult to depict such a girl in photography at present, I decided to create a photograph which would have the viewer imagine an innocent girl as a new "idea" in the contemporary society. I did the shooting in the spring 1998 in Tokyo.

The Reason of Life

This is the view of what men dream of but can never be at the point to see. Many men have a lot of desire to see the underwear beneath a woman's skirt. At the same time many women think about having their underwear looked at by men. This desire is never spoken of in public. The woman is photographed by the artist at the same moment as the woman photographs herself. The camera can be a very good excuse to connect men's and women's desires.

Noritoshi Hirakawa is known for his work which explores elements of the social structure that are well-recognized but rarely addressed. He was born in Fukuoka, Japan in 1960 and currently lives in New York. This is his second exhibition at Deitch Projects.

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