

parlour

Through the Looking Glass
November 22-23, 2008

Parlour is pleased to present its second exhibition, *Through the Looking Glass*, featuring works by Yasmine Chatila and Collin LaFleche, hosted in the home of Alexander Baxter. *Through the Looking Glass* explores the intimacy of human experience and interaction, creating a tapestry of human existence from both insider and outsider perspectives. In the presented works, lives are shaped and personalities are formed, and through the camera's lens, we see a reflection of ourselves played out in the lives of others.

You can just see a little peep of the passage in the looking glass house, if you leave the door of our drawing-room wide open: and its very like our passage, as far as you can see, only you know it might be quite different from beyond. Oh how nice it would be if we could only get through the looking glass. I'm sure it's got such beautiful things in it. Let's pretend there's a way of getting through into it somehow. Let's pretend the glass has got all soft like gauze, so we can get through.

- Lewis Carroll

The exhibition will include a selection of photographs from *Right After*, a series by Collin LaFleche in which he documented a group of teenagers for an entire year as they transitioned from high school to college. While attempting to objectively capture these individuals in the intimacy of their daily routines, LaFleche became integrated into their world, blurring the roles of artist and subject. In a number of the photographs from the series you can catch a glimpse of LaFleche mingling with his subjects as an ethereal shadow or reflection in a mirror. It is this omnipresence that affects the group of teenagers, making them aware of themselves and forcing them to reflect upon their existence during a chaotic and pivotal time in their lives.

Yasmine Chatila, conversely, is a distant onlooker—a private investigator, a voyeur. Her telescopic lens peers into windows, capturing people who are unaware they are being observed. During post-production, these black and white “stolen moments” are blurred, cropped and layered offering her subjects some privacy. Nonetheless, through this body of work, Chatila traverses beyond the surface and into a concealed world, allowing the viewer to see a space they often cannot penetrate. The surveillance points out that we are all the same: domestic rituals are not unique but rather multiplied and complete strangers participate in the same acts such as pacing back and forth under the light of a full moon. We find ourselves looking in and beyond to find similarities in our own existence. The exhibition will include a large photograph by Chatila entitled *Love in LES* and a series of her short films.

Yasmine Chatila graduated from the MFA program at Columbia University in 2002. She recently had a solo show entitled *Stolen Moments* at Edelman Arts. In the spring of 2009, Chatila's work will be presented at the Centre Pompidou. Collin LaFleche is a student at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, where he is studying Photography. LaFleche is also working on putting together a publication on the *Right After* series.

Parlour is a new nomadic exhibition space that is hosted in a different home each month in New York City. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in a unique and dynamic setting. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Mrs. Rosa-Stumpf additionally received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Goldsmiths College in 2006, and now works in a contemporary art gallery in Soho and as a freelance curator. Ms. Gilmartin currently works for an NGO at the United Nations.

Through the Looking Glass is open from Saturday, November 22nd from 6 – 9 PM and Sunday, November 23rd from 12 – 6 PM by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Ciara or Leslie at parlourinfo@gmail.com.

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