

Bordello

Exhibition of Photography by Vee Speers

**Private Viewing on March 4th 2009,
Cheyne Walk Salon - London**

The twilight of Vee Speers' great photos of beautiful women causes the viewer to merge with the surroundings of the image and enter a kind of dream-like vision of an often sordid reality. She shows beauty where beauty can be terribly absent"
Karl Lagerfeld, 2006

Myriam Blundell Projects is proud to present "**Bordello**", an exhibition of photography by Australian artist Vee Speers.

In *Bordello*, Vee Speers succeeds in creating an authentic and poetic evocation that captures the perfume of a vanished world; the Paris nightlife in the 1920s and 30s. Most famously eternalized perhaps by the photographs of Brassai, the romantic decadence of early 20th century Paris comes to life afresh in this series of sensuous and nostalgic photographs, shot on location in former bordellos where the lavish and opulent decors have survived intact. The stylised imagery created by Speers is meant to engage the viewer in more than simply a wander through desire and fantasy. It also points to the secluded and troubled existence led by the women of the Maisons Cluses during the 1930'.

Speers has produced this series as Fresson carbon prints: a unique 19th century hand-worked technique. This charcoal based process delivers a sumptuous, painted quality and a lyrical, voluptuous sensuality to the photographs. It transforms the very fabric of Speers' photography and softens the images to evoke a compelling, almost voyeuristic setting, while producing a haunting and seductive imagery of the period it portrays.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book with a foreword by Karl Lagerfeld, which also includes four exclusive CDs of specially selected music by early 20th century French performers.

Speers (born in Australia) has lived and worked in Paris since 1990. She has exhibited widely including at the Photographers Gallery in London, and in Paris, New York, Miami, Atlanta, Singapore as well as throughout Italy, Tunisia, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, China and Japan. Her work is collected in many private and public collections including those of Elton John, Michael Wilson (UK), CB Collection Tokyo, DZ Bank Germany, Clerici Collection (Italy), Hoffmann Collection (US), Museum 21C, Louisville, Kentucky, George Eastman House, New York and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Her second book *The Birthday Party* was published by Dewi Lewis, UK, in October 2008.