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Angle: Two debut solos at Lizamore in August 2015

Butkow and Nijenhuis explore various forms of identity construction

In August 2015, Lizamore & Associates will host two exhibitions by emerging artists Bev Butkow and Jenny Nijenhuis. These exhibitions open on 6 August at the Lizamore & Associates gallery. Jenny Nijenhuis' debut solo, ***The masters of misdirection***, tells a story about choice so as to characterise the complex relationships between people and the relationships people have with themselves. Journalist and writer Nondumiso Msimanga will open this exhibition. In her debut solo exhibition titled ***m/other***, Bev Butkow traces, draws, presses into and crosses the fraught line between fragility and strength. Acclaimed artist, Usha Seejarim, will open this exhibition..

Through ***The masters of misdirection***, Nijenhuis explores the development of identity through society and people's understanding of the self. This body of work ties in with a broader conceptual project that encompasses the representation of identity in the form of archetypes. An archetype is a collectively assumed symbol, expression, or way of behaving, a prototype upon which others are modeled. Jung proposed the existence of universal prototypes of ideas that channel experiences and emotions, which result in recognisable and typical patterns of behavior. *"At any given time, each of us is likely to be operating under at least one of the archetypal patterns of behavior, a character carefully put on for the known behavioral outcome. When the conscious mind chooses to ignore these archetypal behavior patterns we become caught up in the belief that we are what we are merely experiencing - this provides a skewed sense of individual identity"* explains Nijenhuis. This sculptural exploration of archetypes and their innate characteristics, attempt to expose the state of the human condition – while simultaneously revealing her own position and choices. Apart from the sculpture, a selection of photographs will also be exhibited.

Jenny Nijenhuis was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. She obtained a BA Fine Art (Hons) from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 1993, a PR & Communications qualification in 2000 and completed a Strategic Marketing Management programme at Wits Graduate School of Business Administration in 2003. After working in marketing and communications in the corporate sector, Nijenhuis established Geneology Brand DNA in 2005, in search of a more creative working environment and outlet for her artistic endeavors. In 2011 Nijenhuis scaled down her involvement in Geneology and set-up a studio with the aim of returning to her personal art practice with a long term vision of becoming a professional artist. Nijenhuis is relatively new to the contemporary art scene and has enjoyed limited exhibition exposure over the past few years. She was a PPC Imaginarium finalist in 2015. In 2014 she was selected as a finalist for the Lovell Tranyr Art Trophy in Cape Town and she participated in the Point of Departure group exhibition at Lizamore & Associates gallery. She exhibited on the CMYK group exhibition at Everard Read SPEKE Photographic, CIRCA on Jellicoe in late 2012.

Alongside Nijenhuis, Bev Butkow's exhibition ***m/other*** will be exhibited. *"My intention is to draw the viewer into works that surprise or enthrall by pushing the boundaries of my media's visual and physical*

properties to open a conversation, to create a point of connection. I think of my work as a form of story telling” explains the artist. Butkow’s semi-abstract, broken-up depictions of girls in states of striving and submission, point to the existential realities of gender inequality. Furthermore these portraits investigate the denial of access to education and opportunity experienced by so many girls in South Africa. Drawing on her experience as a mother, Butkow explores the uncertain territory between support and social judgment, and the layers of protection we put in place to achieve belonging, community, family, acceptance. **M/other** by Bev Butkow hinges on the core foundational skill of drawing. Setting up interplay between two- and three-dimensional forms, the delicate paper drawings are translated into multiple media, ranging from Perspex assemblages with transparent and vinyl-coloured elements, to vinyl affixed to wrapping plastic, to large-scale installation. The artist’s presence and choices can be strongly felt in the texturing and layering of her images, as well as in the elements that have been extracted from her drawings, leading, at times, toward abstract shapes and pattern-making. Process and making are crucial in this body of work. In its multiple textures, her work reflects dual impulses – tenderness and care, but also an unrelenting determination to push the medium to new limits.

Bev Butkow was born in Johannesburg into a family of second-generation immigrants. She holds a degree in Chartered Accountancy from Wits University, and is a self-taught artist, obsessed with learning and innovation. She exhibited for the first time at the Turbine Art Fair in Johannesburg in 2013. Since then, her work has been featured on several group exhibitions. She won a Merit Award at the 2015 SA Taxi Foundation Art Awards, resulting in her artwork being reproduced onto 10 minibus taxis. She was selected as one of nine “Young Talented Artists” for the Fresh Produce Exhibition and mentorship programme at this year’s Turbine Art Fair.

Gallery hours Tues – Fri 10h00 -17h00
 Saturday 10h00 -15h00

Ends

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