

Press Release

ALEXIS DAHAN

THE LOVER'S BODY PARTS ARE SEPARATED

November 27th 2012 - December 30th 2012

HALF GALLERY

Opening: November 27th - 6 to 8pm

Organization

**Bill Powers
Half Gallery**

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"Lines, even the most consistently linear lines, almost abstract at first and unrelated to the human body, become drunken lines, seized by ignoble undulations, unconnected to anyone or anything, but ignoble nevertheless."

Henry Michaux, Infinite Turbulence

For his first solo show, Alexis Dahan will present ten images from the series: "The Lover's body part are separated".

Living and working in New York since 2005. Dahan has organized Laurent Grasso's first US show in 2007 and also works closely with Robert Longo as his photography consultant on special project.

For the last five years Dahan has been regularly commissioned by W Magazine and Purple Magazine for editorial photography while developing his personal work heavily focused on conceptual abstraction.

The Work

The Lover's Body Parts Are Separated

In "The Lover's Body Parts are Separated," artist Alexis Dahan sees his lover's body as a series of interweaving shapes and lines. Each form maintains an existence separate from the body part from which it came.

The inspiration for "The lover's body parts are separated" came to Dahan after a long-term fascination with Fontana's Concetto Spaziale that pinnacled when he was on a photoshoot in Milan in November 2011. During a lunch break he wandered to Casa-Museo Boschi Di Stefano Museum and found himself surrounded by a room filled with Lucio Fontana's series Concetto Spaziale. Dahan explains, "I always had this visceral, sensory reaction to his punctured monochromes. I could feel the contours of the punctures just by looking at them. This work has always been one of my visual obsessions."

Dahan's fascination with Fontana's punctures has little to do with the artist's heralded spatial theory. Instead, Dahan is more fascinated by the lines and bodily creases naturally created by the female body than with the naked body itself. He began to photograph the lines of his lover's body as a series of pure forms. "I had to extract these forms, set them free. Each line was so visually poignant and poetic it deserved its own unique space on a print."

Well-versed in the visual and conceptual dimensions of abstract painting and photography, Dahan cites abstract painter Kasimir Malevich as another pivotal influence behind this project. Dahan notes how Malevich insisted "creation is present in pictures only where there is form which takes nothing already created in nature, but arises out of the painted mass without repeating and without altering the primary forms of the objects of nature." (From cubism to suprematism in art. 1915) Dahan believes this concept can also be applied to photography, in which case framing and contrast become tools to create images that neither repeat nor alter "the primary forms of the objects of nature."

The title of the project, "The Lover's Body Parts Are Separated," functions as the narrative component to the photos, contextualizing the abstractions as the viewer knows the forms belong to a nude female body.

There is an understated ephemerality to the photographs that compose "The Lover's Body Parts Are Separated" as each form represents a fleeting moment when Dahan caught his lover in the midst of movement. The viewer sees Dahan's lover as he sees her, as a series of abstracted forms.

Dahan concludes, "People are often unsatisfied with a pure visual experience. I think it's the most cerebrally liberating experience you can have. That being said, I also want the viewer to experience the poetic narrative that made the images come to life." In this body of work he gives the viewer two different types of experiences: one consisting of pure form and the other of narrative form, uniting the contradictory themes of narrative and abstraction.

(text by Gillian Sagansky)

Alexis Dahan

BIOGRAPHY

1982

Born in Paris, France

2002

Assitant to Hermann Amaan

2005

Moves to New York

2007

Opens his Studio

Organizes Laurent Grasso's

First US show

2008-2012

Commissions for Purple

Magazine, W Magazine, Elle

Italia, Style.com, Giambattista

Valli, Dom Pérignon, etc.

Photo consultant for Robert

Longo on special projects

Born in Paris in 1982, Alexis Dahan became German abstract painter Hermann Amann's assistant at age 20 while studying literature and philosophy in Paris, France and Siena, Italy.

After completing his Masters at Université Paris VII, he moved to New York in 2005 after winning a scholarship to enter the Magazine Journalism Master program at NYU.

In 2007 he opened his studio on Union Square where he organized French artist Laurent Grasso's first US show entitled "Electric Palace."

For the last five years Dahan has been regularly commissioned by Purple Magazine, W Magazine and Elle Italia for editorial photography while developing his personal work heavily focused on abstraction.

Dahan was commissioned by designer Giambattista Valli for his upcoming monograph to be published by Rizzoli in Fall 2012. Dahan also works closely with artist Robert Longo as his photography consultant on special projects.