

## **The Swimming Pool**

by Deanna Templeton

Opening: Saturday, April 29th 2017 from 2 until 6 pm

Show: May 4th - June 24th 2017

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FIFTY ONE

GALLERY FIFTY ONE TOO is pleased to announce its first solo exhibition by the California based photographer Deanna Templeton (US, 1969), called 'The Swimming Pool', a sun-lit series of colour, black-and-white and Polaroid pictures showing different models photographed from above while swimming naked in Templeton's pool.

Templeton was inspired for this project after she shot a picture of her husband, professional skateboarder and artist Ed Templeton (US, 1972), skinny dipping in their pool, and was intrigued by the way the light was reflected in the water. Over the next eight summers, from 2007 until 2015, Templeton invited her friends and acquaintances to do the same, encouraging them to express themselves in the water. The one-on-one connection between the photographer and the naked model resulted in intimate pictures that simultaneously capture the feeling of freedom, weightlessness and total isolation from the outside world one experiences while being alone under water.

On a pictorial level 'The Swimming Pool' can be considered as a study of the light and human form under water. Templeton exploits the artistic opportunities offered by the ripples in the water surface, caused by the elegant movements and the breathing of the model, that refract the light and distort the contours of the body in unpredictable ways. Both in this fascination for the constantly changing surface of the water as in the bright turquoise of Templeton's colour pictures, this series may remind the viewer of the pool paintings the British artist David Hockney (Great Britain, 1937) made since his arrival in Los Angeles in 1964, the earliest containing a male, often naked subject plunging in the water.

Hockney was attracted to swimming pools as a symbol of the Californian way of life. It is this typical local *joie de vivre* and a celebration of youth that lays at the core of Templeton's oeuvre. This self taught photographer is mostly known for her documentary street pictures depicting the skate and beach life of Southern California. Because of her personal and sensitive approach to her youthful subjects, Templeton manages to reveal a different side of these subcultures, away from the stereotype of virile skate heroes and sexy bikini babes. Her portraits of strangers she met accompanying her husband on skate tours or during the couples' daily walk on the pier close to their home, often make it into series dealing with identity and body image. A well-known examples is 'Scratch My Name on your Arm' (2010) in which Templeton explores the phenomenon among the Californian youth to have various of their body parts autographed by their skate and surf idols.

Templeton's work is previously been shown in solo exhibitions in among others the NRW-forum in Düsseldorf, Germany (2009), the Australian Center for Photography in Sydney, Australia (2007) and in Museum De Domijnen in Sittard, the Netherlands (2005).

Her work was included in group shows in The Daelim Museum in Seoul, South Korea (2017), the Riverside Art Museum in Riverside, USA (2009), the SCHUNCK\* Museum in Heerlen, the Netherlands (2008), the Preus Museum in Horten, Norway (2006) and in the Bildmuseet in Umeå, Sweden (2007). Templeton's photographs are incorporated in the collection of Museum De Domijnen in Sittard, the Netherlands.

Previously her work has been shown by the gallery in the group exhibitions 'Nonage' (2014) and 'Water' (2011).