



Pars parvola ventris tauri, linguae roseae anitum, 2008,
silver halide prints, 30 x 20 inches and 18 x 12 inches

Heide Hatry

Not a Rose

Photographs
May 23 – July 3, 2013

Stux Gallery is delighted to announce *Not a Rose*, a solo exhibition of photographs by neo-conceptual artist **Heide Hatry**. Seamlessly juxtaposing flowers assembled from grotesque, immaculately manicured flesh debris and picturesque, nonchalant nature, Hatry's works bring aesthetics and ethics into an explosive head-on collision that is both conceptually corrosive and visually arresting.

Hatry's serene scenes of flowers are actually photographs of trompe l'oeil arrangements of the offal, sex organs and other residues of deceased animals. Their simple compositions almost recall scientific illustrations, whose directed focus on the flowers' anatomy heightens their fragrant aroma and delicate beauty. Her commitment to recreating the physical beauty of flowers renders the viewer's realization of the photographs' true materiality particularly jarring. The instantaneity of photography confronts the ephemeral blossoms with the persistent momentum of death and decay, and invites viewers to interrogate our cultural conception of flowers and their function as, essentially, "sex organs for plants". Elegant yet deeply disturbing, these works call into question the foundations of aesthetic perception (and perception in general) and the ethics of our use and abuse of living animal-plant nature.

This exhibition at Stux coincides with the new **CHARTA** publication: *Heide Hatry, Not a Rose*, which addresses the nature of our relationship to flowers with unprecedented scope. Her images and the writing of 101 prominent intellectuals, writers, and artists together channel Richard Wagner's pursuit of the "Gesamtkunstwerk", an interdisciplinary "total artwork" that offers a dynamic, holistic expression of its subject that is not constrained by the division between contemporary artistic genres. Contributing writers include **Jonathan Ames, Jonathan Safran Foer, Jessica Hagedorn, Donna Haraway, Siri Hustvedt, Lucy Lippard, Robert Kelly, Kate Millett, Rick Moody, Steven Pinker, Avital Ronell, Stanley Rosen, Peter Singer, Klaus Theweleit, Franz Wright, and Luisa Valenzuela.**

-Lucy Li

New York-based German, artist **Heide Hatry** is best known for her provocative body-related performances and her work employing animal flesh and organs. She grew up in the south of Germany, and was educated at the University of Heidelberg and various art schools. Since coming to New York in 2003 she has shown her work at museums and galleries here and abroad, as well as curated numerous exhibitions and edited more than two dozen books and art catalogues. Her book *Skin* was published by Kehrer in 2005 and *Heads and Tales* by Charta in 2009. The book, *Not a Rose*, was launched at MOMA PS1, April 14 with a panel discussion with Avital Ronell, Steven Pinker, Lucy Lippard, Linda Weintraub, and Thyrsa Goodeve, followed by readings, conversations, public lectures, panel discussions, performances, and screenings of a documentary film about the project produced by London Consortium TV.

For further information please contact the gallery at andrea@stuxgallery.com.