



play\_gallery for still and motion pictures

**Lauren Lavitt**

***Flower Album***

*curated by Hackermann Ines Virginia*  
*private view: Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005, 7pm*  
*25<sup>th</sup> November 2005 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2006*  
*Opening hours: Wed – Sat, 2 – 7pm*

Blameless and Shameless. Thus the sight of a flower reveals, it is true, the presence of this well-defined part of a plant, it is though impossible to stop at this superficial observation; in fact, the sight of this flower provokes much more significant reactions, because the flower expresses an obscure vegetal resolution. What the configuration and colour of the corona reveal, what the dirty traces of pollen or the freshness of the pistil betray doubtless cannot be adequately expressed by language; it is, however, useless to ignore (as generally done) this inexpressible real presence and to reject as puerile absurdities certain attempts at symbolic interpretation.

***Flower Album*** is a collection of works, that celebrates and embraces colours and compositions, figures and landscapes and material relating and inspired from the artist's floral experience "I make paintings, videos, photography and sculptural installations. I basically use what ever medium best articulates my ideas. I see painting and video as hunting and cooking – one can't live without the other".

In this show **Lauren Lavitt** reveals all the contractions of her work between poetry, love, joys, horror, Los Angeles, sexual identity, pop culture, garlic and health. In fact, if Lavitt wouldn't be an artist reflecting on the erotic vomit, she would definitely be a nutritionist. The works in the show embrace a personal and fragmented narrative about the anxiety and joy of existing in a modern automobile driven in a metropolis such as L.A. **Lauren Lavitt** likes to drink kombucha tea, she lets herself be overdosed by ginger and garlic and green. She likes to explore the actions of religious sacrifice and erotic fusion. Like an Acéphale (the headless), she is fascinated by human sacrifice to love and hate, but she's not a physical executioner, Lavitt executes only the mind of the voyeur, by generously giving the homogeneity's need for deviance, as a breathtaking act of self-delimiting.

In Lavitt's videos the voyeur is left with the idea of something rather than having the smell or touch of it. Lavitt is interested in showing the limits of vision through video, the majority of her video work is about activations, whether that activations derives from video itself of a person watching it. It is good to talk about voyeur rather than public, since voyeur is the contemporary definition of spectator nowadays, especially when it comes to visual arts or TV, or porn. The more desperate the eroticism, the greater the attraction.

Flower Album is an overview of the young LA artist and her attention on deficit disorder, grotesque, sexual identity, haptics, love, nature, contractions, and voyeurism in this body of work...and flowers and their infinite misinterpretations. Men have linked the brilliance of flowers to their amorous emotions because on either side, it is a question of phenomena that



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precede fertilization. At stake here is clearly not the divination of the secret meaning of flowers, and one can easily make out the well-known property or adequate legend.

One would look in vain, moreover, for parallels that strikingly convey a hidden understanding of the things here in question. It matters little, in fact, that the columbine is the emblem of sadness, the snapdragon the emblem of desire, the waterlily the emblem of indifference... It seems opportune to recognize that such approximations can be renewed at will, and it suffices to assign a primordial importance to much simpler interpretations, such as those that link the rose or the spurge to love.

LA PEINTURE EST LE MAL, LES FLEURS SONT LE FLEURS DU MAL  
THE LANGUAGE IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE FLOWERS.

IL MALE E' IL MALE SOCIALE (ESSERE CADUTO COME GLI ANGELI)  
IL MALE MORALE (UN CERTO GUSTO PER IL CRIMINE E IL SADISMO)  
IL MALE FISICO  
IL MALE METAFISICO (DIO NON C'E')

Thank Britney that Lauren Lavitt is from LA. Britney saves Lauren from all the bad.

Britney über Gott.

Hackermann Ines Virginia – HIV

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#### **Lauren Lavitt**

Born in 1980, in Los Angeles, California (USA).

**Education:** '02 –'05 M.F.A. University of California, L.A. / '98–'02 B.F.A. Otis College of Art and Design.

**Recent exhibition** (a selection): *Fair play* Play\_gallery for still and motion pictures, July '05, Berlin (Germany); *Genderosity* 4F gallery July '05, L.A. (USA); *Anarchy* Slamdance film festival July '05; *Super Sonic* Los Angeles Design Center, June '05, L.A. (USA); *The path of the moons and planets* Crazy Space, March '05, Santa Monica CA (USA); *MFA thesis shows* UCLA March '05, UCLA L.A. (USA); *Gea's Sweets* Bologna Flash Art Fair, January '05, Bologna (Italy); *1234* Thing Studio, Venice CA (USA) December '04; *Blanking* The Smell L.A. (USA) June '04; *Summer show* Anna Helwing gallery L.A. (USA), July '04; *Where the art stops and starts* The Latch gallery L.A. (USA) January '04.