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SEP 5 ECHO FINE ARTS | VEE SPEERS : FASHIONED FROM NATURE

REVIEWS (/CULTURE/CATEGORY/REVIEWS)



Vee Speers
Phoenix, Untitled #1, 2020

Written By Carolina Benjumea

When Vee Speers ventured into the red-light district in Paris in the 1990s, she created her very first photographic series, which has become one of her most acclaimed works to date. *Bordello* is not just a documentation of women who work in prostitution; it is a social study of women's existence and a nostalgic

retrospective of life in brothels. Since the release of this collection, Vee has centered her work around portraits that show the most authentic side of humans.

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A new retrospective of her life's work is being held at the Echo Fine Arts gallery in Cannes. *Fashioned from Nature* reviews the photographer's poignant portraits and characteristic style, easily recognizable by their ethereal and fantastic allure. The exhibit gathers a selection of artworks from six of her nine series, retracing the coherent narrative conceived throughout her work and evolution over the years.



Vee Speers

Phoenix, Untitled #17, 2020

Born in Australia, Speers has crafted a style that is as unique as it is visionary, blurring the lines between humanism and fantasy while portraying both the imperfections and perfections of nature and the body. Her striking portraits convey the stories of whimsical beings experiencing human life, exploring profound themes such as nostalgia, femininity, and childhood.



Vee Speers
Transcendence, Globe, 2023

The powerful images are covered in deep colors and ethereal tints. Fantastic, as well as natural elements, such as animals, flowers or plants are placed around the subject, further emphasizing a theatrical and romantic feeling, sometimes immersing the viewer in an enchanting world where there is a narrative for each photograph. Created by Speers for her shoots, clothing also plays an important role in each image, serving as a symbolic element that places the character in a specific context and setting, and conveying messages and emotions. The characters are driven by different human emotions, portraying the beauty found in imperfect beings.

Women and the female body are constant subjects in Speers' work, as she seeks to understand their emotional journey through life and their relationship with nature. In her series *Phoenix*, she creates mystical images as if they were taken from a thriller. With a dark background, the photographer conveys emotions of nostalgia and hope. The women in this series represent a phoenix reborn from the ashes; with an intense gaze, the subjects are as strong as they are fragile.



Vee Speers
Gaia, 2023

One of her most characteristic works is *Dystopia*, the final series of a trilogy that began with *The Birthday Party*, where she photographs children portraying different emotions, and continues with *Bullet Proof*, in which she photographs the same children six years later. *Dystopia* is the culmination of this work, where the same characters are photographed 10 years later, representing a world that is unstable and volatile. In this series, each person is a character who speaks about freedom, identity, and self-assurance. Heroes, shamans, and fighters pose in front of the camera as mythical creatures.

Fashioned from Nature is on display until September 7, 2024, at the new permanent space of Echo Fine Arts in Cannes.



Vee Speers

Bulletproof, Untitled #1, 2017

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