

Memoirs of the Devil
By Miltos Manetas

Purple News

Dear Olivier,

I'm coming to Paris for a one man show at Cosmic Galerie, January, 2004. The show is called "Memoirs of the Devil." It's a homage to a book written by director Roger Vadim, who was married to Brigitte Bardot, Jane Fonda and Catherine Deneuve. I've decided to make a portrait of my three most important women. One is Vanessa Beecroft, another is Mai Ueda, and the third is Madeleine Von Froomer, a young American fashion designer. There will be a room dedicated to each girl. Mai's will be the prettiest because with her I was the happiest, VB's room (she is a mother now as you know) will be a dark with a smell of something burnt and the sound of the sad music I commissioned GNAC to create for her wedding. You can listen to it at www.sonotriste.com. Madeleine's room will be very erotic. There will be a sculpture made of glass containing network cables and live snakes dedicated to a fourth woman, a Chinese girl.

The most important piece in the show is a poster where I "evaluate" the performance of the three women and that sexy Chinese girl. The poster was "redesigned" by Angelo Plessas and called Manifesto. It is a remake of a work by Italian artist Alighiero Boetti who, in 1969, made a similar one which encoded his opinions about the artists of his generation. Each of Boetti's characteristics took the form of a symbol. Collectors could buy the poster for a low price, however the "code" that would explain the piece was on sale for a very high price and if nobody purchased it before a certain date, it would be destroyed and the decryption would remain secret forever. And that's what happened. My Manifesto poster code will also be on sale, for \$150,000, only until 2007. I hope no one will buy it. Included in the show will be a new website I did with Aaron Russ Clinger: Maninthedark.com. It will be activated the day of the opening and will be on sale as an artwork.

The show is like a dream that can be analyzed, even by a shrink. It's the girls that are doing it really. I merely reflect their influence on me. Usually I hate autobiographical works, but this time I needed to do it in order to understand something about myself.

Here is the website of the show:

www.memoirsofthediavil.com

See you soon.

Love,

Miltos



CHINESE GIRL AT THE STANDARD HOTEL, OIL ON CANVAS