

MARTINA HOOGLAND IVANOW

February 3rd, 2014



Speedway is Martina Hoogland Ivanow's second solo exhibition at the gallery Swedish Photography but it is one of the first series by Hoogland Ivanow (2001-2005). The idea took her through Germany, Finland, Mongolia, Siberia and Sweden and the result become a series focused on the highly precarious sport of speedway racing.

As her recent series, each of her images are imbued in a dark mesmerizing aesthetic which conveys in her images a heightened presence as real as it is poetic. „I'm not aware of constructing a technique and lighting a selection of subjects are choices that every photographer makes, in combination it makes a personal statement. If I choose a very soft lighting, it is to capture something that's very hard to take in“, says Hoogland Ivanow.

Speedway is a statement, a series with almost alien-like figures in a fictive world but at the same time very human. Her work often deals with reflections and personal definitions. The portraits of drivers with the masks on are very strong and almost frightening. The connection between you as a viewer and the audience at the speedway arenas is close. On one image—at night of course—you find the lightning of the arena reflecting on shoulders. Like from a sublime flash or like knights in shiny armours. Another image shows a man on his knees, like in a ritual on the icy track.

There is a thread between Hoogland Ivanow's former series all the way through to her more recent work. Her excellent skills of defining odd groups, societies or subcultures, like in her series „Satellite“, and making sublime works out of it, are enacted in the series „Speedway“.

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Martina Hoogland Ivanow, born in 1973, lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden. She holds a BA in Fine Art, Major in Photography, from Parsons School of Design in both Paris and New York. Hoogland Ivanow has shown work in most of Europe, Japan, China and the US, and her work is to be found in major collections as V & A in London and Moderna Museet in Stockholm.

"Martina Hoogland Ivanow: Speedway": February 8 – March 15, 2014
Opening: Friday, February 7, 7 pm



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