



SILVIA B

Nationality: Dutch
Lives and works: Rotterdam, NL
Website: www.silvia-b.com

Aesthetic is closely linked to ethics, according to the Rotterdam artist Silvia B (1963). Her hybrids are very beautiful and attractive at first sight, but afterwards you realize what is really there.

What did you want to become when you were little?
Truck driver. All on your own and the opposite of small.

When did you start making things?
When I was at high school, during the punk period. I made a skirt from a black and white chequered umbrella and used to hang all kind of things in my ears. From chips forks to dolls' shoes. Just because there was not much to be bought in Rotterdam I started to make things myself. This resulted that my scope broadened, everything appeared to have the possibility of being material.

You studied autonomous art and fashion at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam. Why two fields of study?
I entered the fashion direction, but had a rather autonomous idea about fashion that did not fit the practice of the fashion department in those days. Therefore I also wanted to get lessons from sculptors. It turned out different: the combination was much too heavy, I had an accident at the academy breaking various bones and subsequently I encountered a very rigid management. After two and a half years I started for myself.

What fascinates you in fashion?

It is the fastest media reflecting the spirit of the time. Our feeling towards the world or larger still, our fears and desires: they are translated very direct into fashion. Without knowing exactly why they suddenly feel like wearing the survival-look, huge groups of people buy and wear it. It is in the air. Fascinating.



Almost Perfect



Almost Perfect (Close-Up)



Bloodmoon



Lily Lucinda



Zeki

To what extent do you find your current work fashionable?
I make nowadays images that try to say something about our time with the help of human figures. That implies that the fashion aspect is in fact unavoidable.

What inspired you?
The street, magazines, tv, film and human behavior.

Are you hoping to change the current beauty image?
I am interested in the exception, the different beauty that prevails in the smallest subculture or absolute individualism. Maybe I can contribute a little to stretch out the tolerance. We live in an era where choices are made for the own kind, race or religion; that gives me the creeps. It is limiting and in the end very dangerous.

Do you always work from a concept or do you sometimes make something just for its beauty?
There is no difference. Beauty is only really present when it also makes the brain crack.

What do you yourself think is the power of your work?
I always make hybrids. Creations between humans and animals, between young and old, between man and woman. They are attractive, enabling the second layer to enter softly. I am not interested in shock, as that stops the thinking. The execution is as perfect as possible, enabling you to dwell as long as possible on the illusion that is called up. The attraction and rejection in one unintentionally makes you think why something is beautiful or ugly and how you connect good and bad to this. I am aware of the fact that I work closely to props, fancy fairs and fairs; I love the thrill of a high content of amusement.

Where does your fascination for humans and animals and the merging of these come from?
Very often human behavior is bestial, lead by instinct. Let us take for instance the behavior of a group bringing to existence the underdog: it is seen with dogs and at elementary schools, because kids still have to learn the whole idea of civilization – that system of codes enabling us to co-exist without too much murder and manslaughter – but it is also seen in offices where well-mannered adults work. We are still driven by fears and desires. We like to be that special hairless, intelligent, very creative species that thinks that all other species are only there for our use and pleasure; but below that wafer-thin layer of civilization we are still just animals.

by Elsbeth Grievink

La vie est si génante

