

SOUFER GALLERY

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## SILAS SHABELEWSKA

### The Monte-Carlo Series: early works from 1980

24 January – 29 February 2012



***The Black Pumps***

The Soufer Gallery is pleased to present an Encore Exhibition of THE MONTE-CARLO SERIES works by Silas Shabelewska, on display at the gallery 1015 Madison Avenue. The exhibition, the artist's fourth solo show at the gallery, consists of 10 images from a series of early works the artist created when she was 17 years old. Shown to the public for the first time in September 2011, the Soufer Gallery is presenting the works again due to popular demand.

***The Monte-Carlo Series*** captures Shabelewska's precocious talent before she created widely acclaimed ***PEACE & LOVE*** series (2008) and ***Portrait of Helmut Newton Reach for the Stars*** (1995).

Born in Monaco in 1963, from Architect parents, the artist grew up in a very creative and stimulating environment. Silas Shabelewska was 16 years old, when she paid a visit to photographer Bob Martin, a neighbor in her family's building in Monaco. Bob gave the teenager a roll of 35 mm black & white film and told her to go out and take photos of anything she liked. She shot a roll of photographs using her sister as a model and took them back to Martin for his assessment. Enthusiastic about the results, Martin immediately took Shabelewska on as his only student, teaching her the silver gelatin process. Thereafter, she created more images culminating in *The Monte-Carlo Series*. 10 of these will be exhibited at Soufer Gallery in Manhattan 24 January- 29 February 2012.

"Bob's extraordinary enthusiasm for my early work allowed my passion for photography to grow and become my life goal," recalls Shabelewska. "The most important advice I got from him was, 'anyone can learn how to print; anyone can learn how to use a camera, but the most important thing is your imagination as well as the way you look at the light ... not everyone can do that.' I still apply his advice in my work today. I am thrilled beyond words to share these photographs, 31 years later, for the first time."

Maguy Maccario, Consul General of Monaco and North American Director of Monaco's Tourist Office, explains, "We are truly delighted to support talented artists from Monaco like Silas. Her passion and inspired creativity have helped cement the Principality's well-deserved reputation for producing so many world-class cultural and artistic achievers."

Shot in abandoned 19th century villas in and around Monte-Carlo from 1980 to 1982, the photographs feature young women in the artist's circle playfully posing in eccentric attire. Shabelewska captures the truth of youthful play and the resulting images are provocative and flirtatious.

### About Silas Shabelewska

Born and raised in Monaco, Polish-American Silas Shabelewska has practiced photography since the age of 14. At 16, she learned the process of silver gelatin printing. In 1984, Shabelewska enrolled at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston where she majored in photography, film and video. Since the late 80's, Shabelewska has worked predominantly in photography and has photographed art world personalities such as **Leo Castelli** and **Helmut Newton** (in Monte-Carlo in 1995).

Past solo shows include: *The Vermeer Series* (Soufer Gallery, New York); *Roads America* (Björn Ressle Fine Art, New York); *Roads* (Gallery Kayafas, Boston); *Roads* (Briggs Robinson Gallery at Soho House, New York); *Silas Shabelewska* (Patrick Verelst Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium) and *PEACE & LOVE* (Soufer Gallery, New York). Her work has also been showcased in many museum group exhibitions in Washington, DC, Miami, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Ft. Lauderdale, Corpus Christi and Antwerp, Belgium. She lives and works in New York City with her husband, Norwegian-born artist Andre von Morisse.

### About the Consulate General of Monaco

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