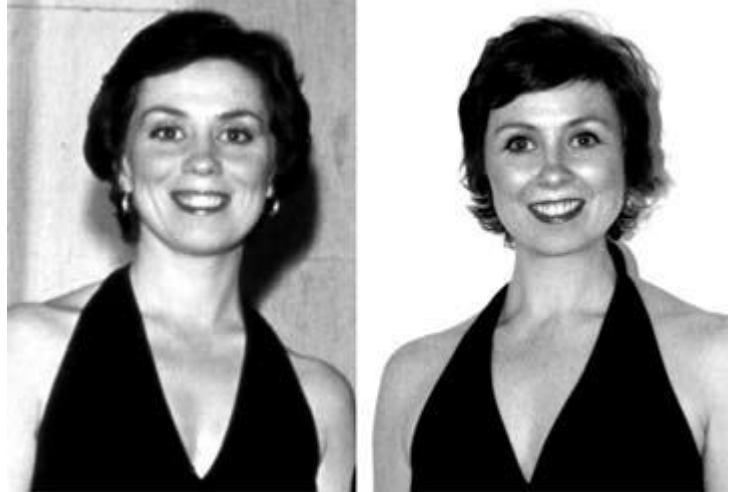


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GEORGINA STARR

THE FACE OF ANOTHER

TRACY WILLIAMS, Ltd., NY

14 SEPTEMBER – 27 OCTOBER 2007, Opening: 14 SEPTEMBER FROM 6-8 P.M.

THEDA with LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT by HUMANSACRIFICE QUINTET

ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES

32 SECOND AVENUE AT 2ND STREET, NY

18 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 8 PM

For the past 14 years, Georgina Starr has created a diverse body of work using video, film, animation, photography, music, writing and performance. She continues to explore the relationship between history and memory. Attempting to extract meaning from collapsing realities, she makes complex and obsessive investigations into invisible, lost, or fragile phenomena.

In this exhibition, Starr focuses on the nature of performing and performance in the public and private arena. After spending a year revisiting the lost film performances of silent screen actress Theda Bara, Starr began to reflect on her own performances in her work, in her 'real' life, and also those of her mother which absorbed her as a child growing up.

Using Kobo Abe's 1960's novel about loss of identity, expression and shame *The Face of Another* as a guide, her exhibition like Abe's book is divided into chapters, The Grey Room, The White Room and The Black Room.

The Grey Room

THEDA (Prelude) is a 12 minute video in which Starr performs as Bara. In a single-shot filmed performance, the artist runs through a series of codified expressions akin to the silent era performer. As the rhythm of the performance takes hold, it seems as if her face is being held hostage by the gestures and expressions she is trying so precisely to communicate, transforming what at first appears to be an acting exercise into a moving portrait of artist and actress.

The White Room

The Face of Another shows an image of the artist that is spliced together with an old photograph of her mother as she attends a dinner dance in the 1970's. The uncanny resemblance of the two smiling faces gives the image a particular quality. The framed typed text which accompanies the photograph, like a half remembered letter or confession, discloses the truth behind the performance played out by her mother in the photograph, highlighting how our identity is both beyond our control, and constructed by the gaze of others.

The typed book *THEDA- A Performance*, is a ludicrously detailed deconstruction of the improvised performance given by Starr as she revisits the plotlines and roles of the silent actress in *THEDA**. The text resembles in style a text from an earlier work by Starr, *The Nine Collections of the Seventh Museum* (1994), where a room filled with seemingly disconnected ephemera eventually reveals itself to be filled with hidden meaning and connectivity.

The Black Room

In the final room is *DEATH*, a sculpture based on the 16th century woodcarving 'The Allegory of Vanity' by Gregor Erhart. The sculpture was originally made for Starr's film *THEDA*, where it is modelled by the fictional artist 'Ronaldo Wright' (played by Starr), after Theda (also played by Starr) poses at his studio. In *THEDA*, the artist model is consumed by fear and anger after the sculpture is unveiled, and she breaks into the gallery to destroy the artwork. Starr's sculpture *DEATH* is a performative work. The sculpture is thrown from a height and left where it falls, broken on the floor. The sculpture exists only in its broken state.

**THEDA* (duration 38 minutes) will be screened at Anthology Film Archives, New York with live accompaniment from humansacrifice quintet on the 18th September at 8pm. For ticket sales, please contact the gallery directly at 212.229.2757. Limited seating, so please reserve early!

For further information and images, please contact the gallery at 212.229.2757.
Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Saturday, 11-6

Please join us for the opening Friday the 14th of September from 6 to 8 pm