

PRESS RELEASE

Shanghai Center of Photography (SCoP) is delighted to present:

“Valérie Belin: Meta-clichés”

Beauty and artifice—Valerie Belin’s clever constructs take delight in visual confusion



Exhibition Opening: July 1st, 2017 16:00

Exhibition Dates: July 2nd --- August 24th, 2017

Primarily using the human form and its manmade and virtual representations, French artist Valérie Belin explores the materiality of matter. A central theme in her work is the boundary between reality and illusion; where, in our perception, in our habit of seeing and understanding, does this boundary lie?

In approach, Belin makes deft use of light, detail, texture and color. She works in series, and a form of “photography” that requires skills at digital manipulation as well as sensitivity to the physical material used for the final work itself: the individual pieces are never simple reproductions. Additionally, scale is used for its proportional relation to the viewer, and so that every detail, every element of the illusion is laid bare for our perusal.

The recent series *All Star* explores illusion as a form of self-delusion: the conformist image of perfect beauty, of a fashion model or celebrity, seen as superheroines. This is just one example of how Belin juxtaposes multiple elements within a single frame to enhance and confuse the focus upon their subject. The artifice of the process is intended to produce an ultramodern image; a movement that aims at “meta-clichés”, hence the title of this exhibition, which the artist defines as clichés designed to transcend cliché.

About the artist



Paris-based French photographic artist Valérie Belin was awarded the Prix Pictet in 2015. Her work has been the subject of two retrospectives, one, in 2008, at the Centre for European Photography (MEP), Paris; the second at the Pompidou Centre, also in Paris, in 2015. Her works are found in the collections of numerous major museum collections, including MOMA New York, the Pompidou Centre, Paris, and LACMA in Los Angeles.

Valérie Belin | Autoportrait | 2010

Courtesy Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels



“Valérie Belin: Meta-clichés” is the artist’s first exhibition in China, co-curated by Shen Chen (Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing) and Karen Smith (SCoP), as part of the Croisements Festival, the annual celebration of French culture in China.

For support of the exhibition, we thank Croisements Festival, the Embassy of France in China, the Consulate General of France in Shanghai, the Institut Français, “croisements.faguowenhua.com”, and the artist’s gallery Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels.

We would like to offer special thanks to Bottega Veneta, our official corporate sponsor. Confirming its strong commitment to art and culture, and honoring also Creative Director Tomas Maier’s lifelong dynamic relationship with photography, Bottega Veneta is supporting SCoP for 2017.