



Lydia Goldblatt: And The Word Was God

30 June – 5 September 2008

Visual arts commissioning agency Pavilion is delighted to announce the second in the programme of exhibitions at 7 Saw Mill Yard. *And The Word Was God* by Lydia Goldblatt is a series of photographic and film based works that were commissioned by Pavilion in 2007.

And The Word Was God probes the encounter between collective and individual religious practice and experience. Goldblatt photographs the performance of rites of passage rituals and ceremonies by young people, looking at the moments at which children adopt forms of religious language and gesture.

In photography, the depiction of religious rituals is normally found in documentary practices, with the Christian overtones of the grand Family of Man project by Edward Steichen in the 1950's representing the most cloying version. Here, children of all nationalities and religions are presented as uncomplicated, innocent beacons of light within a troubled world. This aestheticisation of youth as symbolic of hope and innocence is courted by the glossy prints and cute prettiness of Goldblatt's models. However, this aestheticisation emphasises the theatricality of these representations, underlining the distance from a documentary tradition that pretends to depict an unmanipulated reality.

Catherine Grant

Lydia completed an MA in photography at the London College of Communication in 2006, and has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Lydia was recently selected for a group show at Skolska 28, Communication space in Prague. The exhibition was curated by Professor Val Williams, Director of Photography and The Archive Research Centre.

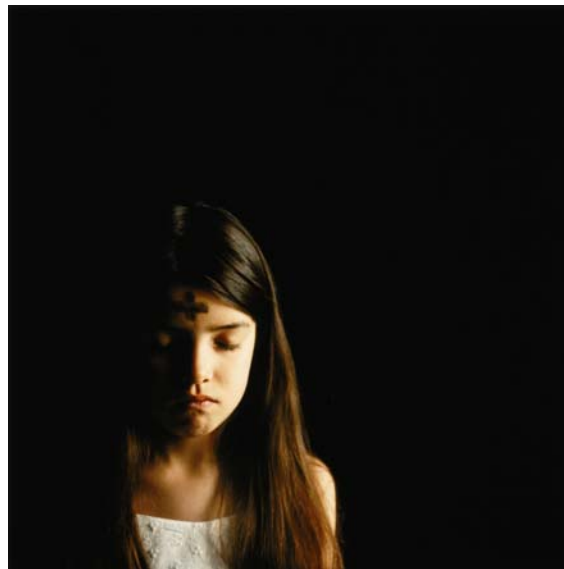


Image >> © Lydia Goldblatt 2007

Opening evening event:
10 July 6 - 8.00pm at Pavilion. The opening event is sponsored by Vedett. The exhibition continues until 5 September 2008.

Pavilion:
7 Saw Mill Yard, Round Foundry, Leeds, LS1 1 5WH.

Opening times:
Mon - Fri 1.00 – 5.00pm and by appointment.
Admission is free.

For further information and images for press contact Ruth Haycock, Pavilion Programme Manager on tel: 0113 242 5100 or email: ruth@pavilion.org.uk.

Additional notes for editors:

Pavilion is a visual arts commissioning agency that collaborates with artists and audiences to make exceptional new works of art, using photography and digital media. Through the *Pavilion Commissions Programme*, Pavilion aims to make an important contribution to the UK photographic sector.

Pavilion recently relocated and opened a new gallery within the Leeds based Round Foundry Estate. The move was supported and receives sponsorship from Igloo Regeneration.

Pavilion has commissioned five photographers as part of the Pavilion Commissions Programme 2008: Peter Ainsworth, Tess Hurrell, Jo Longhurst, Kevin Newark and Moira Lovell. The exhibition partner for 2008 is the National Media Museum, Bradford.

For further information visit: www.pavilion.org.uk