



VICTORIA SADLER



- Home
- Victoria
- Banking on Burlesque
- Writing » »
- Contact

 Go to... Go to...

Leontia Gallery Showcases the Dark and Surreal in 'Flesh'

Posted by **Victoria**, on September 19, 2014

0



Leontia Gallery is a new pop-up gallery and they have debuted with *Flesh*, a tightly edited collection from new and emerging artists that is dark, exploratory and thought-provoking.

The collection of works has been collated by owner Leontia and it is a very tightly edited one. There are only about a dozen works on show but each reflects the sensual, intense theme perfectly.

There's also an element of the surreal to a lot of the works on show, whether in the super-imposed flower-print over Magnus Gjoen's skulls in *Roses Are Dead* or in the black, tarred feathers that cover the face in Flora Borsi's *Essache*, the eye-catching image being used to promote the show.

Essache is a wise choice as the promotional image as its drama and darkness reflects the feel of the whole collection perfectly.

In it the young woman's skin is obscured but the look in her eyes, as she glances back over her shoulder towards the viewer, really grabs you. There's an elusiveness in her stare that's hard to read.

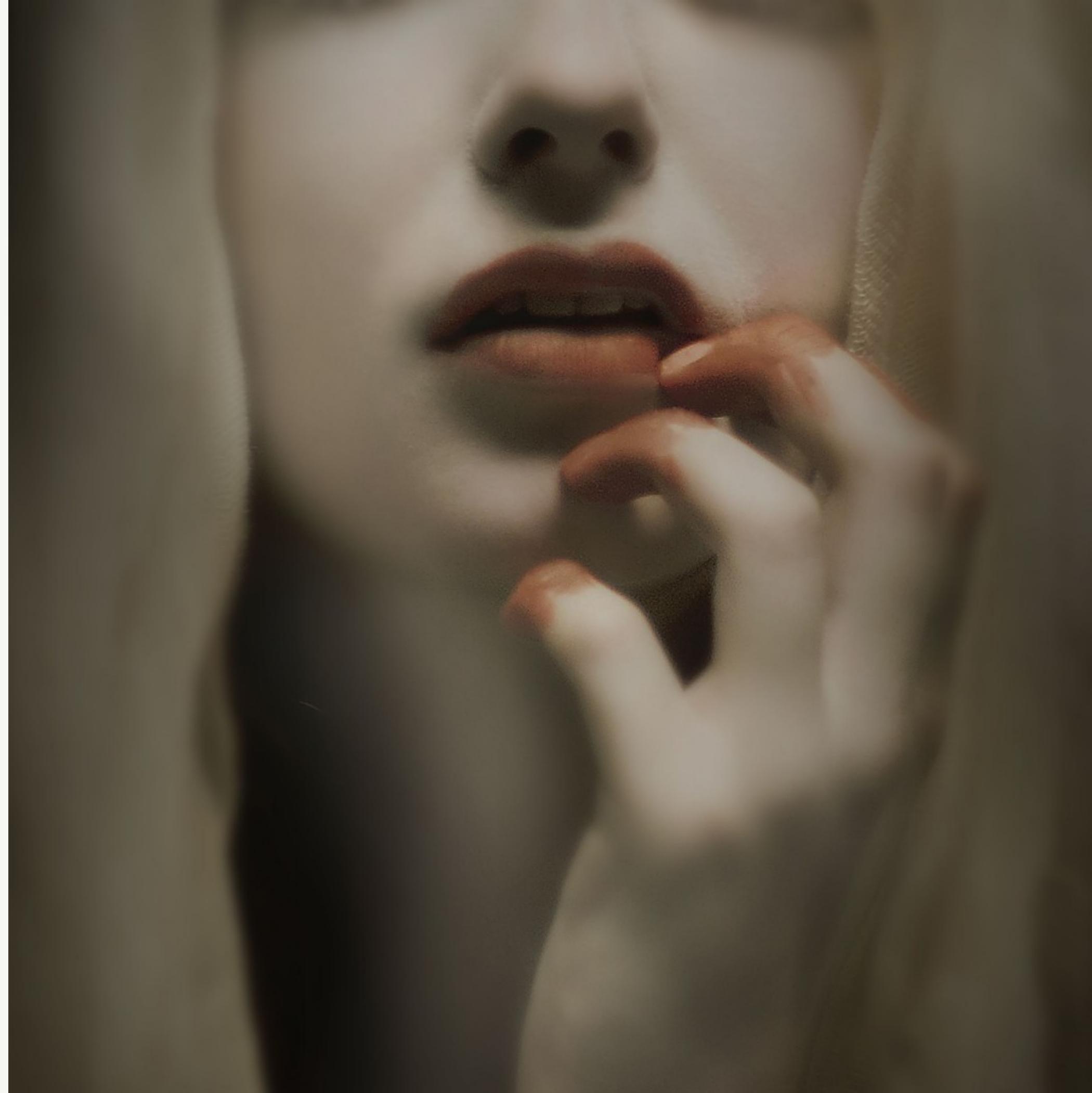


It's no surprise therefore that some numbered editions of this print had already sold on the first night but her other pieces were also interesting. *Happiness is a Warm Gun* and *Extraction* had a highly stylised editorial look that gives the impression of a glossy beautiful image but there's a lot going on underneath the surface in these pictures. The power and energy within them is superb.

I particularly liked her *Nymph's Death* though, which is an interesting play on the [usual role of nymphs in art](#) as a way of eroticising the female nude under the cover of classical themes. In Flora's work, an elegant topless nymph sits passively on a chair but her head is aflame.

Flora is not the only female artist on show whose works explore female sexuality. In her *White Lady*, Mariska Karto's exploration of female sexuality is explosive. In this print, a pale blonde woman touches her lips with her blood-stained fingertips. The contrast of the blood red with the virginal white spirit of the image is a stunning contrast with powerful sexual connotations.

There are about 10 prints on show in the gallery and supporting these is a number of glass hearts designed by Maria Koshenkova. These hearts of glass are all contorted and damaged. Some are white, others are bloody. One is black. I thought they were fascinating, reflecting delicacy and power in each piece.



It was also good to see the gallery showcasing some sculptural work as there are a lot of photo prints on the walls. At first I thought perhaps the collection lacked diversity – no drawings or more traditional paintings. But actually this is to the collection's benefit.

This collection is edited with a certain look and feel in mind and it works well. The focus on glossy photography and dramatic glasswork keeps the collection coherent, cohesive.

Flesh is dark, yes, but it has a very cool, contemporary feel and the gallery's accessibility will hopefully serve it well. Its current location just off Charlotte Street W1 is certainly a smart one. If you're nearby, this collection is certainly worth seeing. The works' dark sensual theme is an intoxicating one and the works were passionate as well as beautiful.

It's a great start by Leontia Gallery and its pop-up concept will be an interesting one to watch.

Leontia Gallery, Charlotte Place, London to October 7, 2014

Image credits:

1. Essache by Flora Borsi, giclee print on hahnemuhle, photorag 308gsm
2. Happiness is a Warm Gun by Flora Borsi, chromogenic print on Alu Dibond
3. White Lady by Mariska Karto, hahnemuhle photorag 308gsm

Tweet 9

Pin it

Post your comment

Your comment

Submit

Powered by WordPress - A theme by CSSIgniter.com