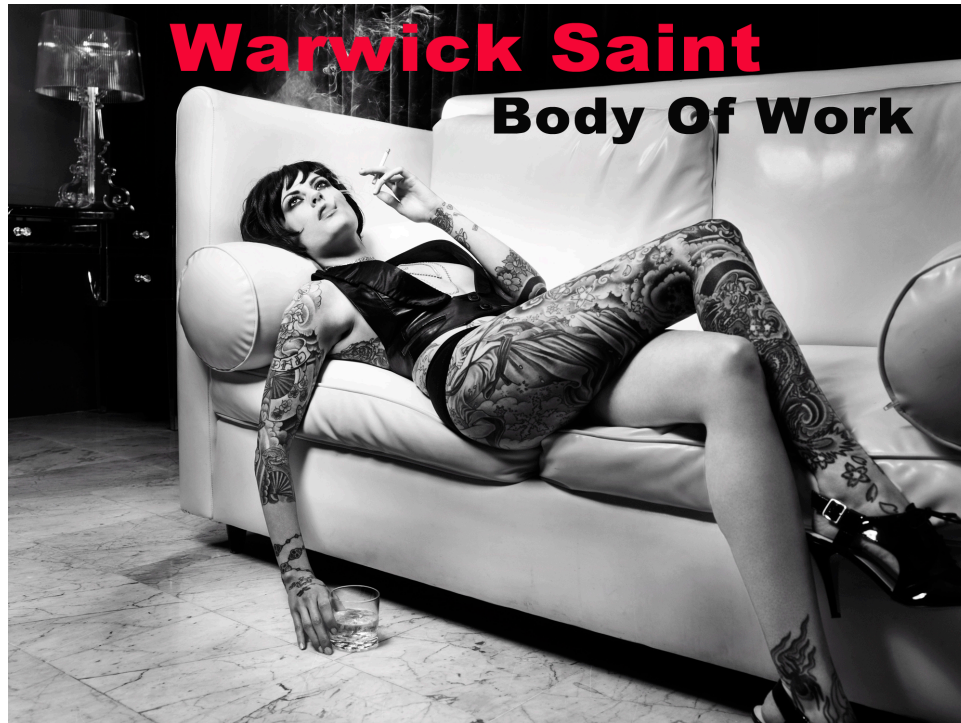


# HIONAS GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*Night Hotel* (2008). Photography

**December 1 - 30, 2011**

Opening reception: Wednesday, Nov. 30, 6:00-8:00pm

New York, NY (November 10, 2011) - Hionas Gallery is pleased to present **Warwick Saint: *Body Of Work***, the very first solo exhibition from one of the style & fashion world's most sought-after photographers. For this show, Saint and gallery owner **Peter Hionas** have carefully compiled a selection of twenty photographs from the artist's recent work with tattooed models, artists and other acquaintances. The resulting collection – provocative, sultry and noir all at once – is both indicative of Saint's extensive work with nudes and starlets, and something of a departure from his oeuvre, revealing a more in-depth narrative with his subjects.

A partial nude ascends a shadowy staircase, every inch of her shoulders, back and thighs covered with tattoos; a seductive blonde stands in mid turn, most likely toward our gaze, holding a glistening six-shooter in one hand, with a desolate junkyard as the backdrop. In these portraits and others, such as *Night Hotel*, in which Saint's lovely subject grasps a drink and cigarette while lying prone on a white leather sofa, a story is being told that is for the viewer to decide, even inhabit if they're so daring.

While many photos of movie stars or models can feel fleeting, given the subjects' built-in celebrity and all that entails, Saint captures a permanence with these women that is unmistakable. Each tattooed model he photographs is a living and breathing work of art, with flesh as canvas. Whether their body art is a coat of armor, spiritual decoration or something else altogether, the artist's lens performs a balancing act each time: "I'm giving them a character, a part to play in the photo shoot," says Saint of his subjects. "There's a sensuality I wanted to bring out...but I'm always respectful of the fact that they are both woman and canvas."

In *Body Of Work*, as with all of the artist's work, the viewer is no mere voyeur. For Saint, beautiful women who bear equally beautiful body art is worthy of portraiture that invites us in, to view their story and find some element within that strikes a chord. However, Saint insists that any symbolism of particular tattoos or these women's respective motives for each work is not an element of this collection. "For me it's about showing these women in a certain light," he continues, "to elevate them, make them beautiful without judgment."

There will be an **opening reception** for the artist from 6:00 to 8:00pm on **Wednesday, November 30, 2011**. A collection of videos and other background information on Saint and this exhibition can be found at [www.bodyofworkshow.com](http://www.bodyofworkshow.com)

#### **About the Artist:**



Warwick Saint (b. 1972) is a New York based photographer of South African extraction. Saint's portraiture is in constant demand from celebrities such as Drew Barrymore, Lady Gaga, Cate Blanchett, Jeff Bridges, Liv Tyler, Paz de la Huerta and countless others. His work has been featured on the covers of dozens of fashion and lifestyle magazine, including *L'Oficiel*, *BlackBook*, *Arena*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair*, *Gotham*, *Inked* and *Flaunt*, among others. Additionally, Saint has photographed hundreds of models, celebrities, and advertisements for publications like *Whitewall*, *Interview*, *London Sunday Times*, and *Rolling Stone*.

From a very early age, Saint displayed a preternatural skill and love for the art of photography, often removing himself to the African bush to shoot landscapes and the local fauna. His father, the late Kenny Saint, was founder and Creative Director of

Grapplegroup, a groundbreaking graphic design studio in South Africa and the UK. Spending many hours at his father's side in the studio, Saint quickly developed an eye for color and style. Meanwhile, Saint's mother, Deborah, worked as a model, and at the age of 9 months Saint made his first magazine appearance, being held by his mother on the cover of the South African *SARIE*.

Saint earned his BA in Art and Philosophy, with honors, from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. *Body Of Work* is his first solo gallery exhibition. He lives and works between New York and Los Angeles.

**About Hionas Gallery:**

Hionas Gallery is a 500 sf. exhibition space located at 89 Franklin Street, in a classic TriBeCa storefront. The gallery invites contemporary and emerging artists, working in all variety of media, to participate in monthly solo exhibitions to showcase their latest work and artistic vision. The gallery space doubles as the storefront for the personal fitness studio, Peter Anthony Fitness, owned and operated by Peter Hionas. Over the years, Hionas has personally trained hundreds of celebrities and other high profile figures, including a number of artists and art world luminaries. This list includes the artists Marina Abramović, Terry Winters and Dan Colen, collector Adam Sender, architect David Rockwell, and P.S.1 founder Alanna Heiss, among many others.

Gallery owners Peter and Maria Hionas officially opened the gallery in June 2011. "We have been avid collectors of contemporary art since 1991," says Peter Hionas. "It's a modest storefront we have here, but also really spacious and versatile. I see us as operating in the tradition of the old Betty Parsons Gallery in midtown, or the original White Cube in St. James's; small spaces that just show great art."

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For more information e-mail Maria Hionas at [mariahionas@gmail.com](mailto:mariahionas@gmail.com) or visit [www.hionasgallery.com](http://www.hionasgallery.com)

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