

A House is Not a Home

[180 magazine 14/02](#)

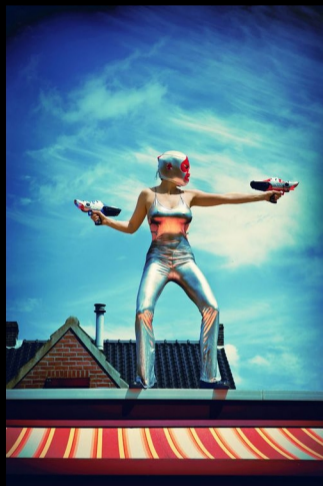
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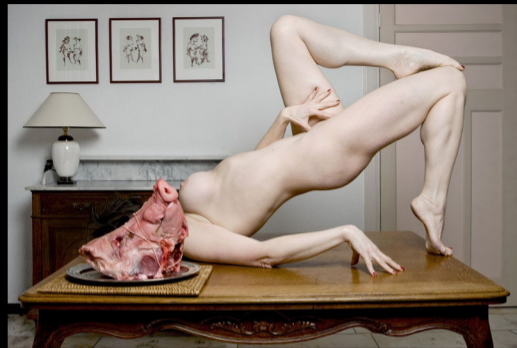
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Photography: [Lilith](#)

Action Lilith on the Edge

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Banquet

Through her carefully orchestrated self-portraits, photographer Henriëtte van Gasteren (artist name Lilith) presents an ironic and spellbindingly stylish commentary on the image of women today. With "performances" falling somewhere between the real and apparent, her alter egos hold up a dead sharp mirror in front of women and men – calling out society's ancient convictions.

At times literally laying herself, and not just her cards, on the proverbial table, Lilith aims to discover and expose the maximum delicacy within any human being.

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Queen Bed

Lilith was born (1964) and currently resides in the Netherlands. Her work has been exhibited widely throughout Europe and the Netherlands, and was shown in the US for the first time in 2012.

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Side Table

I got into photography by accident, because someone gave me a second hand webcam. I suddenly noticed I could tell stories with my face and body. That happened in 2005. After that I used a compact camera in front of a mirror and then in 2006 I bought a 'real camera' and a remote control. From then on the sky was the limit.

I used to be a management secretary for 17 years and nowadays besides photographer I am mother of three children.

My area is self-portraits. Themes: women, identity, vulnerability, gender bending but above all, freedom and equality.

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Doing the Laundry

Anton Corbijn, Guy Bourdin I admire, but my inspiration comes from my life. From what I go through and what I see around me. My self-portraits are my diary.

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Ham

Since I only shoot personal and hardly any commissioned work it's not easy to make a living for a whole family. Each day I consider myself a lucky person though. No one knows how long I will be able to do what I do now. It all has to do with making choices in your life: happiness or wealth. I chose for happiness and therefore consider myself to be a 'wealthy' person.

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Golden Triangle

Project: A House is Not a Home

Dutch Art Photographer Henriëtte van Gasteren (Sevenum, 1964), using the artist name Lilith, is a storyteller with a passion for photography. Since 2006 her self-portraits have been telling her stories. Her recurring themes have been women, identity, female archetypes, gender bending and of course, life itself. But above all freedom and equality.

Lilith creates humorous, ironic self portraits around her own home. A house shows who we are and over 5 years Lilith shared her home with her audience. Every corner of the room appears in her extraordinary photography. A story in images about women, vulnerability, eroticism and much more.

In 2012 the time for change had come. For her latest series of self-portraits home owners unknown to her have offered their houses as sets. After she contacted the newspapers, dozens of house owners offered their homes for her new self-portraits. Lilith visited the houses, often without the presence of the owner, their faith in her shown by giving her their house keys and carte blanche to use the rooms as she wished.

Lilith, in both her life and her work communicates with the things discovered around her so in these new and strange sites the artistic possibilities explode with sometimes surprising results. Her photography changed but still remained unmistakably 'Lilith'.

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Libertad

Mankind is vulnerability incarnate. One can easily wound this creature, severely if one wishes. This is frightening. What lies around the next corner? Today's online revolution makes this question even more loaded. A whole new world is at the disposal of people with an evil mind. At the same time kindheartedness is being given wings like never before.

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Lumps (sculpture by Arjen Markenstein)

For me as an artist, vulnerability represents the ultimate goodness. My art, every single self-portrait, is a reconnoitering expedition to discover maximum delicacy carried by a human being. By me. Every image is a step forward. Through my photography I rediscover faith in humanity.

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Still life, 2013

My dad turned 90 on February 28, 2013! The week before I photographed the both of us. He knows I always add titles to my selfportraits. Viewing this photo he said: 'I have been thinking about a suitable title. How about: Still life?' And 'Still life' it is. Thanks dear dad. I love you.

You will find more from Liliith at: <http://www.lilithlove.eu/>

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