

# DESIREE DOLRON

Prelude: Forever Someone Else

GRIMM Keizersgracht 241

Oct 14 – Nov 18, 2017



Desiree Dolron, *Dominican Republic*, 2001 (2017)

GRIMM is pleased to present a new solo exhibition by Desiree Dolron (NL, 1963) concentrating on photographs documenting her extensive travels. The exhibition is a prelude to a larger overview of this body of work that will be the subject of a new monograph scheduled for publication in 2020.

The title 'Forever Someone Else' refers to a booklet of selected poems by Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935), a writer, philosopher, mystic and astrologer who employed as many as 75 alter egos that he referred to as heteronyms and which he deployed at will to disseminate various philosophical or theoretical views.

This exhibition lifts the veil of a body of never previously exhibited work by Dolron. Included are various self-portraits in such distinct environments that each becomes like an alter ego of the artist, functioning much like Pessoa's heteronyms. The viewer is witness to the artist adapting, changing and evolving with each situation.

Starting with works from 1991, the exhibition shows photographs taken in Pakistan and India depicting Romani, the world's oldest roaming nomad tribe. We see proud people looking defiantly into the camera. The earliest self-portrait in the exhibition shows Dolron when she returned to the site in 1997, posing with an AK-47 amidst child soldiers.

In stark contrast is a group of images taken that same year (1997) from the Wigstock festival in New York City: groups of celebrating drag queens with big hair and selfmade eccentric hats, Desiree happily posing with one of them in another self-portrait.

Three individual, powerful images are shown on another wall; a speeding car, symbol of the American dream, taken in Cuba (2002), a beautiful girl from the Dominican Republic looking melancholically into the camera (2001) and a desert landscape at night in California (1990); the blacks intense, the light subdued.

What unites all the exhibited images is that they are all about dreams, of people in pursuit of happiness. Pessoa treasured the 'dream' as the highest attainable, the rest only a means to get there and we see the same here through Dolron's lense. 'Prelude (Forever Someone Else)' embodies a sense of becoming that binds these works together. Everything is in a state of flux.

"I know not what tomorrow will bring"

– Pessoa's last writing, he died the next day, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1935.

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests please contact our Amsterdam press office:  
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### About the artist

Desiree Dolron (Haarlem, 1963) lives and works in Amsterdam. Recently her work was the subject of a large mid-career retrospective at the Singer Museum in Laren (NL), with a new monograph about her famous *Xteriors series* designed by Irma Boom, published on the occasion. Dolron's oeuvre ranges from documentary images and still lifes to portraiture and film. While she chooses to adopt different approaches depending on the body of work, her astonishingly technical application and eye for detail manage to give her photographs and films a timeless quality.

Dolron's work can be found in the following public and private collections: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (US); The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX (US); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (NL); Museo Nacional Reina Sofia, Madrid (ES); Groninger Museum, Groningen (NL); Gemeentemuseum, The Hague (NL); Victoria and Albert Museum, London (UK); The Buhl Foundation, New York, NY (US); The Olbricht Collection, Berlin (DE); Ekard Collection, Wassenaar (NL) and many others.



Desiree Dolron, *Wigstock NY, 1997* (2017)

### About the gallery

GRIMM is a contemporary art gallery representing over twenty international artists and artist estates. Since its establishment in 2005, it has been the gallery's mission to represent and support the work of emerging and mid-career artists of all media. The gallery currently operates from three exhibition spaces: two in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and one in New York, NY, United States.

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