

ROB TUFNELL

AT

**83 PAGE STREET
LONDON SW1P 4HA**

**KATE COSTELLO
'KIKI & ME'**

22 MAY- 21 JUNE 2014

Rob Tufnell presents an exhibition of new photographic work by Kate Costello.

This exhibition follows her 2011 exhibition of the same name at Wallspace Gallery, New York, in presenting images of nude, life-drawing models posed in front of large scale drawings. The title refers to Kiki de Montparnasse (Alice Prin), the infamous model, muse, singer, actress and painter (1901 –1953).

The works result from meetings with models and conversations around representation. The drawings that form the backgrounds to the images are all pre-existing works by Costello chosen to accommodate their subjects whilst the models' poses are appropriated from the art historical canon. The photographs are taken in her studio – an environment she considers to be less a place of quiet contemplation and more as somewhere fantastical and unrestrained.

Inspired, in part, by the work of the nineteenth century, self-taught artist, Henri Rousseau the works feature crude collisions of dynamic colour and form with classical notions of beauty and composition.

The artist considers each photograph to portray a relationship as methodologies are superseded by the conversations necessary to their production. As such she considers them to be performative in their exploration of the roles of artist and muse.

Kate Costello (b. 1974, Newfane, Vermont, USA) lives and works in Los Angeles. Previous solo exhibitions include 'Extraterrestrial' (with Jedediah Caesar), Finley Gallery, Los Angeles (2014); 'Kiki & Me', Wallspace Gallery, New York; the Suburban, Oak Park, Chicago (both 2012); 'Cockaigne', Redling Fine Art; LAXART, both Los Angeles (2010); 'Extra Extra' (with Jedediah Caesar) China Art Objects, Los Angeles (2009) and 'Tattooed Ladies', Wallspace Gallery, New York (2008). Her work has also been included in 'Made In LA, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles' (2012), 'Art Public', Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2011); 'This Place You See Has No Size at All', Kadist Foundation, Paris (2009); 'Making Do', Yale University School of Art (2007) 'THING: New Sculpture from Los Angeles', Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2005). Earlier this year she published 'Fear & Accessories', with Onestar Press, Paris and another book of drawings, 'P&P', published by LAXART, Los Angeles is forthcoming.

For further information about and images of this exhibition please contact mail@robtufnell.com

Gallery open Thursday to Saturday, 12 – 6 pm

Opening Wednesday 21 May, 6 – 9 pm