

Paradise Row

Project Space

Press Release

Adam Broomberg
& Oliver Chanarin
present:

Dora Fobert

11/10/2011—12/11/2011

Private View:
Tuesday 11 October
6.30 – 9.00 pm

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Gallery hours:
Mon—Fri / 10am – 6pm
Saturdays / 11am – 6pm

Paradise Row announces the first exhibition in its new Project Space, located within its London gallery.

'Dora Fobert presented by Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin' showcases a series of historically important images taken by the young photographer Dora Fobert (1925 - 1943), in the Warsaw Ghetto, in the summer of 1942.

At that time Fobert was assisting Jakub Boim the official ghetto photographer. In an initiative of her own, however, she began to take the series of portraits of women living in the ghetto that are presented here. Simply shot, each nude study is an intimate and personal record of an individual living in the most extreme of circumstances. Collectively, the photographs take on a further meaning, being a subtle act of resistance against the malevolent objectification and eroticisation of Jewish women in the Nazi mind-set. Against the perceived natural beauty of the Aryan female the Nazi imagination set the figure of the 'adorned Jewess' - decadent and adept in the deceptive and seductive arts of fashion and make-up.

Because of the limited supply of photographic chemicals at Fobert's disposal, the photographs were never properly fixed and remain unstable under natural light. Accordingly the works are presented behind red glass.

Fobert was deported to Treblinka in August 1942.

These photographs were saved by Adela K, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Recently discovered, the photographs were first shown as a part of Alias, Krakow Photomonth 2011, curated by Broomberg and Chanarin and are shown here for the first time in the UK.