

MARTINE FOUGERON: TEEN TRIBE

The Gallery at Hermès, 691 Madison Avenue, New York

September 20 – November 8, 2013



Martine Fougeron, *Nicolas Napping*, 2006

(New York, July 23rd, 2013) The Hermès Foundation is proud to support *Martine Fougeron: Teen Tribe* the Gallery at Hermès, the last exhibition to be shown at the gallery during 2013.

Established in April 2008, the Hermès Foundation was created to develop and nurture relationships with contemporary artists by exhibiting their work and supporting their newest creations. Following *Charles Fréger: Wilder Mann*, *Teen Tribe* completes the two-pronged theme for the year: French artists and transformation. Both bodies of work by French artists—one based in Paris and the other in New York—are about metamorphosis whether it occurs during mythological, primitive rituals or the universal ritual of growing up. Both series also explore the theme of tribes: man's desire to be both a unique individual and part of a larger group.



Martine Fougeron, *Sleepover Party*, 2008

Fougeron's series, *Teen Tribe*, began in 2005 when her two sons were 13 and 14 respectively. It follows their adolescent years and is an intimate portrait of her sons and their friends in both New York and France. Fougeron explains, "The work explores adolescence as a liminal state, between childhood and adulthood, between the feminine and the masculine and between innocence and a burgeoning self-identity. The focus is on the adolescents' heightened states of minds."

The Gallery at Hermès will present 23 color photographs and will be the first to exhibit the completed series. The show will be timed with the anticipated publication of Fougeron's *Teen Tribe, A World with Two Sons* (Steidl).

The exhibition is presented by the Hermès Foundation as part of the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)'s *Crossing the Line* 2013 Festival.

The exhibition at the Gallery at Hermès is curated by Cory Jacobs.

Martine Fougeron was born in Paris in 1954 and studied at Wellesley College and l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris. After a successful career as a creative director in the fragrance industry, Fougeron turned to photography, studying at the International Center of Photography in New York. Fougeron has mounted solo shows in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia and her work has also been exhibited internationally in China, France, Italy, South Korea, and Switzerland. Her work is held in major private and public collections including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She lives and works in New York.

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports people and organisations seeking to learn, perfect, transmit and explore the artisan skills and creativity that shape and inspire our lives today, and into the future.

The Foundation's active engagement in three key areas – support for new work in the contemporary arts, education and training, and the preservation of our natural heritage – is guided by our central focus on the promotion of skills and creativity, and their continuing relevance to the changing needs of society today.

The Foundation supports partner organisations across the globe. At the same time, we develop and administer our own projects in the contemporary visual arts (exhibitions and artists' residences), the performing arts (the New Settings programme), design (the Prix Émile Hermès international design award), and biodiversity.

The Foundation's unique mix of programmes and support is rooted in a single, underlying belief: We are what we create.

Located on the fourth floor of Hermès at 691 Madison Avenue, *Martine Fougeron: Teen Tribe* will be open to the public from September 20, 2013 through November 8, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturdays (Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

About Crossing the Line

Crossing the Line is the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)'s annual fall festival, presenting interdisciplinary works and performances in New York. The festival explores the dialogue between artist and public, and examines how artists help re-imagine the world as critical thinkers and catalysts for social evolution. *Crossing the Line* is initiated and produced by FIAF in partnership with leading cultural institutions. The festival's seventh edition takes place this year from September 19–October 13, 2013. www.fiaf.org/ct

About FIAF

FIAF's mission is to create and offer New Yorkers innovative and unique programs in education and the arts that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French cultures. FIAF seeks to generate new ideas and promote cross cultural dialogue through partnerships and new platforms of expression. www.fiaf.org

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