



"This led to *Löyly*, a Finnish term for the steam that rises from icy water when poured onto burning stones, passing from a liquid to a gaseous state. But the term also means ghosts – a taste of things to come – as I will explain..."

Dorothee Smith never stages scenes or tells her friends and models how to pose: with her modesty and discretion, most of them don't even realize they've been photographed. In the *Löyly* series, we see a dark rock rising up and blending into the sky, undeniably bringing romantic painting to mind, along with a menacing tornadolike double cloud and chilly frozen landscapes. But also many young people seen from behind, often with tattooed bodies, daydreaming or withdrawn – somewhere else; a very pale young man with glaciers eyes and raven-black hair, like a recurring apparition in the series, and the sublime face of an androgyne with a dreamy, melancholic look, lost in an inner world, with a half-closed expression and a sensual mouth open for a word or a kiss that won't come. Tired and deliciously morbid, or rather morbid (soft, gentle) since the Italian terms seems more fitting, the androgyne delicately rests a beautiful ephebian head on a velvet cushion with one arm tucked under, offered and already withdrawn, disappearing like a fleeting, desirable apparition."

Extract text Dominique Baqué

Editions spéciales

A limited edition of 30 copies is available, each including a signed and numbered 18 x 24 cm original print.

Coproducer

Pavillon Vendôme,
Clichy - The Finnish
Museum of Photography,
Helsinki - Galerie Les
filles du calvaire -
Olympus France

Released

14/11/2013

Collection

Hors Collection

Format

215 x 290

Anglais/Français

Relié couverture cartonnée

125 photos colors and Blanck and white

192 pages

ISBN : 978-2-35046-296-7

Classique : 40,00 €

Edition spéciale #1 : 400,00 €



9782350462967

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