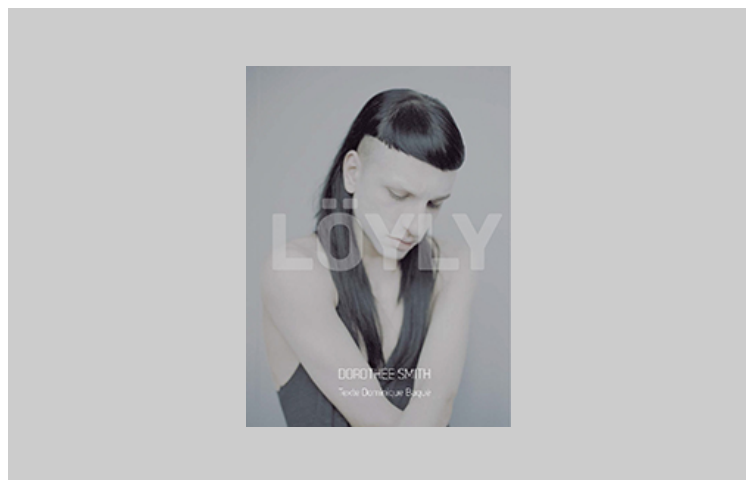


Löyly Smith

Dominique Baqué



"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..."

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 But also many young people seen from behind, often with tattooed bodies, daydreaming or withdrawn – somewhere else; a very pale young man with glacier eyes and raven-black hair, like a recurring apparition in the series, and the sublime face of an androgyne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androgyne delicately rests a beautiful ephesian head on a velvet cushion with one arm tucked under, offered and already withdrawn, disappearing like a fleeting, desirable apparition."

Extract text Dominique Baqué

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