



**Lamington
Drive**

The Jacky Winter Group cordially invites you to:

Sweethearts

Phebe Schmidt

Opening Wednesday July 13, 6-9pm. Exhibition runs July 14—August 6.

101A Sackville St (near corner of Gold St) Collingwood 3066 / 03.8060.9745

info@lamingtondrive.com / Gallery Hours / Wednesday-Friday 11-6 / Saturday 12-5

lamingtondrive.com / jackywinter.com



**Lamington
Drive**

Media Release

Friday July 1, 2016

Sweethearts

Phebe Schmidt

**Lamington Drive is pleased to present
Sweethearts — a solo exhibition of
large-scale portraits by Phebe Schmidt.**

Sweethearts plays with identity construction by exploring exaggerated fictional representations of women navigating the public/private divide in the era of individualism.

Schmidt draws on characters from softcore porn, namely 'Sweethearts' (1986) and more broadly the archetypal heroine found in a Mills and Boon romance, who ensures the reader is "able to relate to her, laugh with her, cry with her – as it's through her that we fall in love with the hero."¹

Sweethearts examines common conceptions of beauty, gender and aging as well as self-love and self-care. Each vignette reveals alternative, transgressive and aspirational portrayals of subjectivity. Schmidt's characters perform for an anonymous multiplicitous audience rather than one (male) hero character. Travel the world with *Sweethearts* without leaving your armchair.

About the artist

Phebe Schmidt is a Melbourne-based photographer who creates hyperreal images, often portraits, which are tightly constructed but essentially ambiguous. Her work has a stylised plasticity and bright surface that acts as a mask that plays with ideas of self, theatrical role-playing, and what lies beneath. 'Plasticity' is a key term Schmidt uses to describe her work and marks a contemporary obsession with homogenised, generic beauty ideals that conform to gender, social, and cultural norms. As part of this approach, Schmidt treats her subjects like a product, as if positioned and conceptualised for an advertisement to highlight how the body is treated as a commodity.

Solo shows: *Hard Bodies*, Kreisler Gallery, Melbourne (2013). Select group shows include: *Neverwhere* (in collaboration in Claire Lambe), Asialink, Margaret Lawrence Gallery project, Gaia Gallery, Istanbul (2015); *Spring 1883* (in collaboration in Claire Lambe), Art Fair, Establishment Hotel, Sydney (2015); *Miss Universal* (in collaboration in Claire Lambe), Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne (2015); *In some places it's illegal to hang your washing out to dry* (in collaboration in Claire Lambe), Sarah Scout Gallery, Melbourne (2014); *Render*, Brunswick St Gallery, Melbourne (2014); *Studio Show* (in collaboration in Claire Lambe and Audrey Schmidt), Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne; *Sincerity* (in collaboration in Claire Lambe), Moana Project Space, Perth (2014); *About Face*, No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne (2014); *Browser*, Paradise Hills Gallery, Melbourne (2014); *It's That Sometimes You Move Too Loud*, Edmund Pearce, Melbourne (2014); *Per-Tim: Club Bed*, Goodtimes Studios, Melbourne (2013); *Xmas Presence*, Kreisler Gallery, Melbourne (2013); *The Eleventh Hour*, Yarra Gallery, Melbourne (2013); *May Exhibitions*, Platform Art Spaces, Melbourne (2013); *8th Annual Contemporary Art Prize*, Brunswick Art Space, Melbourne (2013); *Kodak Salon*, CCP, Melbourne (2012); *Converge*, No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne (2012); *ABUS Unlocked*, 1000 £ Bend, Melbourne (2012); *Death Be Kind*, The Alderman, Melbourne (2012). Select publications include: Elephant Magazine, Vault Art Magazine, Garage Magazine, The Lifted Brow, Sleek Magazine, Dissect Journal and Catalogue Magazine.

What

Sweethearts by Phebe Schmidt

When

Opening Wednesday July 13, 6-9pm.
Exhibition runs July 14 - August 6, 2016.

Where

Lamington Drive
101a Sackville Street Collingwood

*For all press and media enquiries, please contact gallery manager
Shena Jamieson shena@lamingtondrive.com 03.8060.9745*

¹ <http://www.millsandboon.com.au/author-guidelines>