

# MONA KUHN

## NATIVE

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17 September - 9 October 2010

Private View Thursday 16 September 6 - 8pm

A new monograph published by Steidl will be available.

### FLOWERS

82 Kingsland Road  
London E2 8DP

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*Lovers 2009, Chromogenic Print, 76 x 76 cm / 30 x 30 in*

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Mona Kuhn, best known for her alluring figurative studies in a French naturist colony, returned to her birthplace of Brazil after a 20 year absence to produce this new body of work. While this journey home was an attempt to reconnect with her personal history, Kuhn soon found that only traces remained. Through the discovery of new people and places, Kuhn has created her abstracted dreams of both the past and the present. The result is a sensual and pensive narrative, depicting lush jungle landscapes, rustic interiors, and captivating nudes.

In these photographs, exhibited here for the first time in the UK, Kuhn encapsulates the emotions of living in Brazil through her memory of the landscape's green, yellow and pink palette, as well as her intimate reconnection with its people. By contrasting the vitality of the dense Brazilian countryside with the sparse interior of an abandoned apartment, Kuhn establishes her own fantasy of time and place. Within the portraits, the artist develops a trusting relationship with her subjects, allowing her to portray the complexities of human nature, both tempting and provoking the viewer's imagination. Kuhn delicately intertwines these disparate aspects in a series that constitutes her most mature work to date.

Born in 1969, Mona Kuhn has exhibited extensively in the United States, Europe and South America. Three monographs on the artists works, *Photographs* (2004), *Evidence* (2007) and *Native* (2009), have been published by Steidl. Her work is held in collections including the Musee de la Photographie de Charleroi, Belgium; Griffin Museum, Massachusetts; Miami Art Museum, Florida; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego; Schwarz Fine and Contemporary Art Collection, Berlin; Nicolaus von Oesterreich Collection, Frankfurt; di Rosa Foundation, San Francisco; Sir Elton John Collection, England; and the Buhl Foundation, New York.

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