

CARDI GALLERY PROJECTS



Roger Eaton, *Spring Portrait I*, London, 1995
Kodalith (Kodagraph Transtar TP5), 19.1 x 24.1 cm (7 1/2 x 9 1/2 in)

ROGER EATON

A TALE OF NIGHT ANGLING

Curated by Joe La Placa

A Note from the Curator

Guillaume Gallozzi and I founded the *Gallozzi-LaPlaca Gallery* in 1983 based in Tribeca, New York. One year later, in our early twenties, we found ourselves featured at the Basel Art Fair in 1984 sharing the entrance of the exhibition hall with the legendary Sidney Janis Gallery. Our visionary exhibition '*Four Generations of Grandmasters and Assigns of the Letter: 1968 - 1984*' that traced letter writing styles of graffiti artists set a

record for sales - over 75 works sold - that I'm quite sure has still not been matched. Many of these works - the **Basquiats**, **Harings**, **Rammellzee's** and **Phase II's** - are now in major private collections and museums.

Over the following six years **Guillaume** and I spent just about every day together at the gallery on 474 Greenwich Street, a hub of the downtown underground. Our many adventures and encounters over those years will one day be tales for entertaining reading. In our travels, we were most fortunate to meet the amazing **Roger Eaton**, an artist whose unique alchemical approach to photography and visions of nature caught our attention.

Guillaume and I disbanded GLP in the late eighties. I went back to the studio to make paintings and **Guillaume** continued to work as a private dealer. He established a show room at the old Grove Press headquarters on West Houston Street where I would have my first solo show. As our friendship and collaborative spirit with **Roger** deepened, **Guillaume** asked **Roger** to exhibit a series of photographic based works that still look as fresh and alive as they did in the eighties. **Roger's** now lost processes brought a sensual material dimension that is sorely lacking in more conventional photography and especially today's cold digital reproductions. Many of the rare gems from the editions that were exhibited in **Roger's** 1989 solo show are included in the following selection.

The text below was originally published in the catalogue **Guillaume** produced for the occasion of **Roger's** solo show at West Houston street in 1989. Sadly, **Guillaume** passed away when he was a mere 37 years old from a brain tumor but in his wake, he left us his poetic way of seeing the wonderous imaginary worlds he inhabited. This show is dedicated to his memory.

Joe La Placa

A TALE OF NIGHT ANGLING

A tale of night angling, wherein we see the voyeur's shadow cast by moonlight as we follow **Roger's** telluric amphibian wandering. Cutting through the vermeil and silver glades, slipping through lingering vapors, we enter the magic of a secret place.

Deep in the teeming underwood, both beauty and the macabre become equals in nature's eye, light and dark, the positive and negative, have shed their moral skin.

Onwards, led by the wood-nymphs selenium trail, we quietly pass a stern and sullied Ophelia, a sleek salamander peering from the furrows of her gown.

Alone by the cool pond, lulled and then surprised by the muffled death
throws of a choking trout - we gasp - now scurrying through the brambles,
scratched by taboo-blue rose thorns. Dizzy, we heed at once to pleasure
and pain, dumbfounded at the sight of the bittersweet specimens scattered
in his wake.

Upon the first light of dawn, our red-haired poacher locks his traps,
triggering the shutter closed, as gelatin slowly glazes over his kingdom.

Ecstatic, he casts flutters of life in layers of amber, fragmenting time
in shards of light, Frequently. Moth rushes to butterfly and- frozen -
stares back at us within its vitrified domain.

Guillaume Gallozzi
NYC 1989

PRESS

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