

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA

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INSTITUTO CULTURAL DE MEXICO
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

Born 1977, Montreal, Canada

Nathalie Daoust studied photography at the CEGEP du Vieux-Montreal. She lived in New York from 1997 to 1999, working on her *New York Hotel Story* project, which became her first published book. In 2001 she moved to Japan, where she lived for two years, documenting Tokyo's red light district. Since then she has created several location-based thematic projects: *Entre Quatre Murs* (Berlin), *Street Kiss* (Brazil) and *Frozen In Time* (Switzerland). She is currently finishing her latest project in Berlin, and will soon begin a new project in China.

The recipient of numerous international grants and awards, Nathalie has exhibited in over twenty countries, including Canada, the United States, Japan, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. Her work has appeared in numerous publications such as *PHOTO* (France) and *Silvershotz* (Australia); and has won several prestigious awards including the Grand Prize at Lux Québec (2003).

TOKYO HOTEL STORY

In my latest project, *Tokyo Hotel Story* (2010), I continue my exploration of female sexuality and subversion of gender stereotypes. I lived for several months in the Alpha In, one of the largest S&M love hotels in Japan, photographing 39 women in their private rooms, surrounded by the specialized equipment and attire that define their trade. In this series I documented women in their roles as Dominatrices – a woman as a dominating being is a notion contrary to the Japanese ideal of femininity, where women are traditionally passive beauties. Many challenges impede us from confronting deep-rooted stereotypes of gender roles, not only in Japan but in the rest of the world. My projects help me break through traditional taboos, allowing me glimpses into the constructs created by our innermost desires for fantasy worlds that fluctuate between dream, reality, and perversion.

All my images are shot on film and printed in a darkroom, where I can manipulate the images to better reflect what I felt and saw at the time of shooting. The result is a series of photographs that underline my passion for the surreal and the sensual, and which shine a light into the darker shadows not only of femininity but of human sexuality in general.

Nathalie Daoust

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA 2011 Signature Exhibit • Curated by Michael Mehl
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