

ARTE FUSE

Auto Erotic Romance by Kurland

By Olya Turcihin
September 8, 2014



Viewing the work of Justine Kurland

Cheerios in the hands of a mechanic dressed in ripped jeans, the inner abstract geometry of an engine exposed within an open hood, a dead bird elegantly held upside down by one leg, the frenetic beauty of a smashed window – all these and more are the images one experiences in the vivid photography of **Justine Kurland** for her solo show, *Sincere Auto Care*. The narrative format of the photos express the feelings of freedom and of the mundane surrounding this truly American phenomenon evokes. Kurland presents the predominantly masculine culture that surrounds the sexy, freedom inducing American dream of “the car”. But within the small details, one notices perhaps a romantic delicateness that underlies this world. Kurland herself was dressed in a graceful abstract geometric patterned dress that complimented and melded with the engine parts photographed in her work.



Artist Justine Kurland

Chelsea was teeming with energy and delirium on the first Thursday back from summer. Within the gallery space of the Mitchell-Innes & Nash Gallery at this opening, women were dressed in probably one of the last opportunities to wear their beautiful summer dresses. Interlaced with Kurland's photographs, it only enhanced this feeling of femininity within the masculine world exuding off the print.

As the press release reads, " *The formal elegance of the photos and Kurland's eye for teasing romance and beauty out of her subjects give rise to a sense of detached optimism, or as Kurland herself describes 'where beauty is found not because the world is beautiful but because it is beautifully described'*".

So the romance and love of the open road is very American and the vestiges of the greasy mechanical world resonates ever so gently like the wisp of wind on Route 66. It is very much like the last stretch of summer where the breeze brushes and all fades into a distant fond memory.

Justine Kurland: Sincere Auto Care / On View: September 4 – October 11, 2014

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday (11 am to 6 pm)

Mitchell-Innes & Nash Gallery . 534 West 26th Street, NY, NYC 10001

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