

SARAI MARI *SPEAK EASY*

March 30th - April 15th, 2017 | Opening Reception-March 30th, Thursday, 6pm-8pm

Guest Curator: Andi Potamkin Blackmore

New York, March 8th, 2017 - hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK is pleased to announce "Speak Easy" by photographer Sarai Mari from March 30th to April 15th, 2017.

Sarai Mari is a Japanese fashion photographer who has worked in New York, London, and Tokyo. After beginning her career as a photojournalist, Mari transitioned to fashion photography, her work appearing in the likes of Interview, Harper's Bazaar International, Porter, Numero, and Vogue Japan shooting the likes of Adele, Tom Hiddleston, Amy Winehouse, and Scarlett Johansson.

Much of her work is inspired by Helmut Newton for his erotically charged representations of strong women. Mari's book *Naked*, a monograph of female nudes published in 2011, is the culmination of two years of work around the subject of femininity and female sexuality, suffused with Mari's provocative interpretation of female strength.

In March 2017, Mari will release her second book via Damiani Books, *Speak Easy*, inspired by the gender roles men and women play within society. By celebrating all definitions of gender and sexuality, the previously defined terms fall away. They lose their meaning; and there is nothing left but the raw expression of the subject in the image. Subjects featured in the book include Clara Paget, Hikari Mori, Janice Dickinson, and Sonoya Mizuno.



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Artist's Statement

Since I was a child, I have rebelled against these rules and these societal definitions. We all share a desire to be understood, to be accepted and approved of. In our radically changing and highly judgmental society, people are often scared of being isolated or left behind. So they conform to fit in. But in adhering to an outside perception of oneself, we are unconsciously denying our true selves.

I have become obsessed with discovering the true people behind the masks. What lies hidden beneath the skin is often much more beautiful than which is projected outward. Since I was young I have seen a simple transparency in the complex relationships people have with each other. I am obsessed with hidden secrets. I break down the layers through my lens and the mask falls away, revealing an intimate vulnerability that makes time stop.

Exhibitions

- 2015 Group Exhibition, *NOWNY15 - IN.HAUS*, JACK STUDIO, NY
- 2011 *NAKED*, Blackall Studios, London
- 2010 *NAKED*, Gallery SPEAK FOR, Tokyo

Publication

- 2009 *NAKED*, Seigensha Art Publishing, Inc.

■ MEDIA CONTACT

For additional information, images, or to request a sample or interview, please contact:
Lindsey | lindsey@modepublicrelations.com or Jeff | jeff@modepublicrelations.com at MODE PR

ABOUT hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK

hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK is a contemporary art gallery, focusing on emerging artists from Japan. In October 2015 the gallery relocated from Chelsea to Tribeca. hpgrp also operates locations in Tokyo.

hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK

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(Entrance is on Vestry street)

Email: art@hpgrp.com

Url: www.hpgrp.com

Hours: Tue–Sat 11 am–6 pm or by appointment

