

## KAREN KNORR FABLES

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Photo & Co. Turin is pleased to present recent photographic work by Karen Knorr photographed in London and Paris.

Since her groundbreaking photographic documentary series in the early 80's of the great and the good in British society, Karen Knorr continues to explore with wit and humour ideas that underpin heritage, patrimony in the formation of national identity in Europe.

Her work has addressed French culture in the photographic since *The Virtues and the Delights* 1992 a series of framed colour photographs which use French captions and English titles in order to explore the Enlightenment from the point of view of 18th century feminist culture in France and England. In *Visitors* 1998 Karen Knorr photographed the Musee d'Orsay's sculpture collection using a popular motif of the 17th century, reiventing it for modern times. Monkeys and Singeries send up the debate on contemporary art in France using an approach of satire much cherished by caricaturists such as Daumier and painters such as Teniers.

In her magical photographic series (taken in private palaces and public collections) *Sanctuary* and *Spirits* she explores the boundaries between animals and humans in a world that has become relentlessly materialistic and unconcerned by the implications of unlimited consumerism and luxury. These images were taken respectively in London at The Wallace Collection and in the town of Savigliano in Northern Italy.

More recently French painting and furniture in the Carnavalet Museum ,Paris provide the backdrop within her series called *Fables*. Squirrels, Pigeons, Foxes gather in packs invading the salons of the 18<sup>th</sup> century furniture on display at this famous museum of Parisian history in the Marais where Madame de Sevigny once had her living quarters.

Playful references to Ovid, La Fontaine and Perrault mingle with a more recent Deleuzian concept of "becoming animal". Vermin are increasingly living side by side with humans in urban centres such as Paris and London despite the efforts of the municipalities. In the gardens of Hackney, Knightsbridge and Richmond foxes bark into the night ,pigeons roost and coo, rats and squirrels forage, scavenge the waste and refuse of affluence.

Marks of Distinction( Thames and Hudson 1991) and Genii Loci (Black Dog 2003) and a website [www.karenknorr.com](http://www.karenknorr.com) show the ongoing developments of this artist who continues to push the boundaries between photography, text, sound and video.

