

BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2013

Bridgette Mayer Gallery
t: 215-413-8893 f: 215-413-2283
e: bmayer@bridgettemayergallery.com

Bridgette Mayer Gallery announces its fourth exhibition of 2013:
Above and Below by photographer Sharon Harper will be on view May 1 -
June 1, 2013, with an opening reception Friday, May 3, 6:00 – 8:30 PM.
In the Vault Room: *Tease* by photographer Jan Rattia

Bridgette Mayer Gallery is pleased to announce its exhibition of work by acclaimed photographer Sharon Harper. *Above and Below* will be on view from May 1 to June 1, 2013, with an opening reception Friday, May 3, from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. The exhibition will feature new photography and a video based on her time in Norway and Vermont. Emerging photographer, Jan Rattia will have a solo exhibition in the Vault Room.

For the past twelve years Sharon Harper has been photographing the sky to capture images that remain unseen without a camera. Using different methods of photography (multiple exposures, time exposures, and gridding - to name a few) Harper has captured the moon, sun, planets and stars as only seen in fiction or one's imagination. In the artist's words, she believes that the "poetic and the scientific [can] co-exist simultaneously". In this zone of synchronicity, Harper creates stunning, mystical scenes. The images themselves and the technology behind them are not always clear, which is the crux of Harper's work. She aims to lead the viewer to "question knowledge itself, question our ways of understanding and perceiving information and for a moment let ourselves be upended and see the richness of seeing something from two or three perspectives."

Sharon Harper received her MFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts, New York, NY and her BA from Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT. Harper has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and abroad, with solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; dnj gallery, Santa Monica, CA; Halsnøy Kloster, Halsnøy, Norway; Galerie Stefan Röpke, Cologne, Germany; and Rick Wester Fine Art, New York, NY among others. Harper has received countless accolades including, an Artist Residency Fellowship at the Monastery of Halsnøy, Norway, an Artist in Residency at the Banff Centre, Banff, Canada and First Prize at the International Photography Competition, The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA. Harper is an Associate Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University and most recently a collection of her work was published by Radius Books. Harper's work is in numerous private and public collections including, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; and the Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA.

The world of male exotic dancers is a generally little known subculture. Backstage, preparing for their performances, the dancers primp, pump and shave to look their best and meet the expectations of their lucrative patrons. Once on stage, the teasing and interest in patrons are all part of a performance mostly for financial gain, on occasion developing into a bond with their admirers. Jan Rattia delves into the glamorous nighttime fantasy of a possible sexual fulfillment that is rarely satisfied. He has interviewed, befriended, and photographed many dancers to expose the individual men behind these fantasies. His collection of photographs on view in the Vault Room explores issues of masculinity, outward expression and defining emotions through the portraiture of male dancers.

Jan Rattia recently completed his studies at the International Center for Photography, New York, NY. His work has been exhibited at Art Miami, Miami FL; InterContinental New York Barclay Hotel, New York, NY and the Rita K. Hillman Gallery, International Center for Photography, New York, NY among others. His work hangs in many private collections throughout the United States.

Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. & by appointment. For additional information please contact Bridgette Mayer at (p) 215-413-8893 (f) 215-413-2283

###

709 Walnut Street 1st Floor Philadelphia PA 19106 tel 215 413 8893 fax 215 413 2283
email bmayer@bridgettemayergallery.com www.bridgettemayergallery.com