

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Lise Sarfati

THE NEW LIFE

01 April - 31 May, 2006

Reception for the Artist:
Saturday, 01 April, 2006 from six-eight

At first encounter, the subjects in Lise Sarfati's *The New Life* appear as mere simulacra; empty facsimilies of real young Americans, not possibly true flesh and blood. Each person, devoid of motion and spirit, is a shallow imitation of what could be a teenaged or twenty-something individual, only recognizable by their dress and surroundings as such. Are they real, but simply bored to death? Or are they victims of immobilizing uncertainty? Each seems lost in a daydream with no one to wake them, gazing timelessly past the material world, and into an almost tangible void. A closer look, however, unveils the central, pervading question on the minds of Sarfati's subjects in the *New Life* series; *where do I go from here?* The doubt, withdrawal, and sometimes the quiet determination this query rouses, is remarkably palpable in every picture Lise Sarfati takes; in the space between two drags of a cigarette, in the moments spent staring out a window, and in the time spent waking, uncertain of what getting out of bed will really mean. For Lise Sarfati, a native of France, the new life is the same wherever she happens to be taking photographs. It is that which her young subjects are questioning, and it is where their search will take them as they transform beyond their current adolescent reality. The new life, simply put, and beautifully rendered by Sarfati in a series of American-based images, is the so-called void into which each person she photographs stares, and the uncertainty of their very next move.

Born in France in 1958, documentary photographer, Lise Sarfati received her Master's Degree in Russian Studies from the Sorbonne in 1979 and made picture taking her career after working as the official photographer for the Academie des Beaux Arts in Paris. Early in her career Sarfati was the recipient of prestigious grants from the Fiacre Ministère de la Culture, Paris, and Villa Médicis Hors les Murs. From 1989 to 1998 Sarfati lived in Russia, concentrating on documentary work, some of which premeditated her later interest in photographing young adults. Recently, Lise Sarfati's work has been the subject of several exhibitions including those at Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, the Nicolaj Center of Contemporary Art in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Yossi Milo Gallery in New York. Her work is found in the collections of the Los Angeles Country Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Maison Europeenne de la Photographie in Paris, the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A monograph of her Russian pictures, *Acta Est*, was published in 2000 by Phaidon, and in 2005, Twin Palms released, *Lise Sarfati: The New Life*, a collection of fifty photographs taken in various American cities in 2003. Lise Sarfati lives and works in Paris.

Santa Monica - *Lise Sarfati: The New Life*, a selection of color photographs will be on display at RoseGallery from 01 April through 31 May, 2006. A Reception for the Artist will be held on Saturday, 01 April, 2006 from 6-8. The gallery is located in the Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Gallery G-5, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For more information, contact Hannah Sloan, (310) 264-8440; info@rosegallery.net <http://www.rosegallery.net>.