

# I am not here as a muse

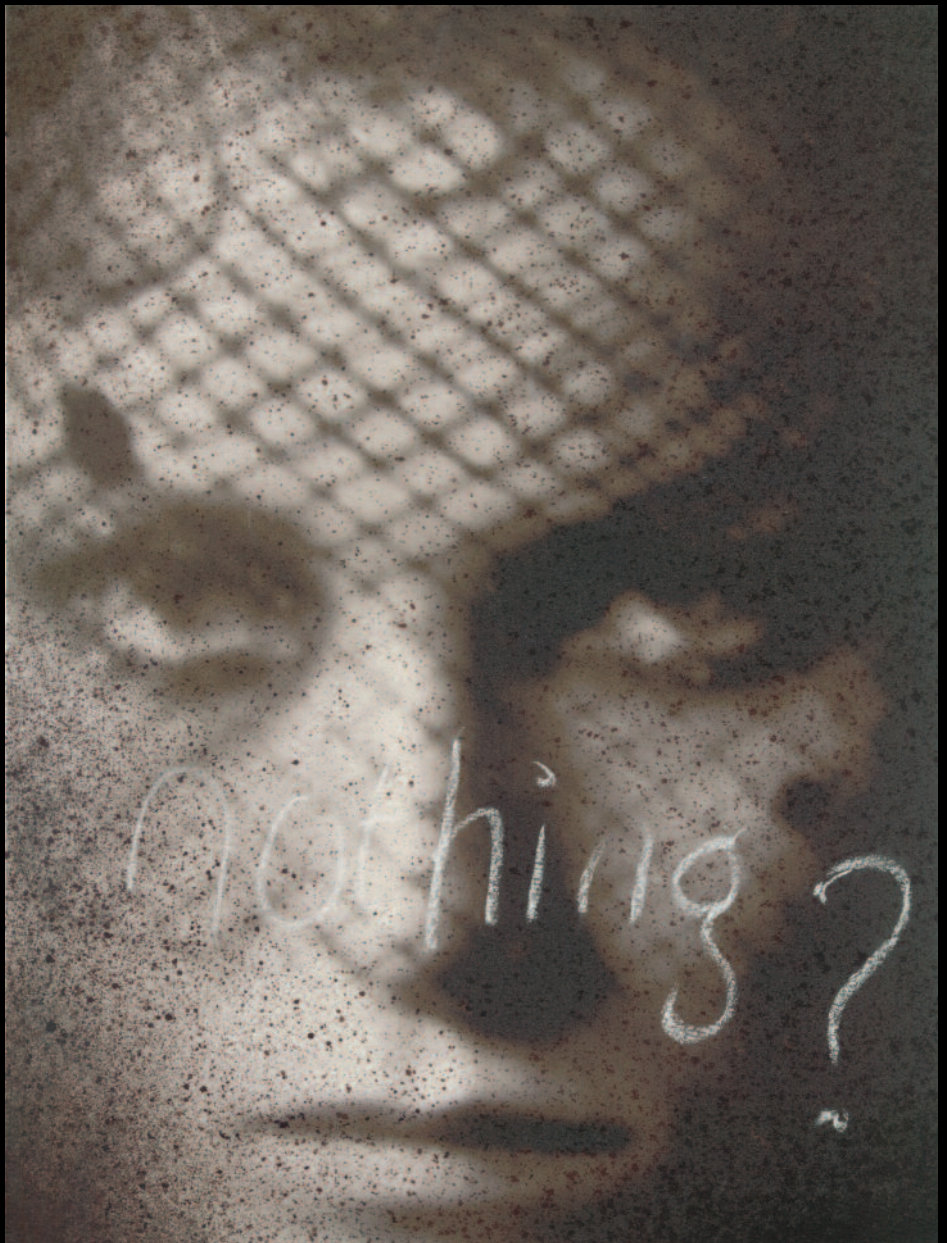
Helen Lyon - UK

Article by King Adz

*It is as if you have entered another world; a feminine dreamscape charged with an erotic undercurrent. Leave all your pre-conceptions of photography and art on the riverbank and dive into the images flowing beneath and see where the current takes you.*

I was introduced to Helen's work by a friend (who was at the time a photographer's agent) in New York several years ago when I was editing an issue of (now defunct, long gone) 100proofTRUTH and was on the look-out for some fresh talent. I was instantly captivated and thrown back into a time long forgotten when I looked at her work. Modern yet classically retrospective, her images played with my ideas of photography, sexuality, beauty, and reportage, and for me, this is what photography should be about.

I began to correspond with Helen in order to get her to show her work in my magazine, but her initial reaction was 'What's urban about my work?' which is a good place to start. Street Culture has influenced every visual aspect of our lives, and her work is a great example of how something urban doesn't have to be a picture of Jay-Z clutching a bottle of Cognac whilst smacking a hoe's ass. Helen's work is urban because you know that just perhaps, somewhere in a city near you, any number of her photographs are being played out right now, as we speak, even though they might look somewhat retro. Her work documents the process from her original idea to the moment the shutter closes to when she is drawing onto a photographic print and something is added with each step; something that builds up into a unique proposition.



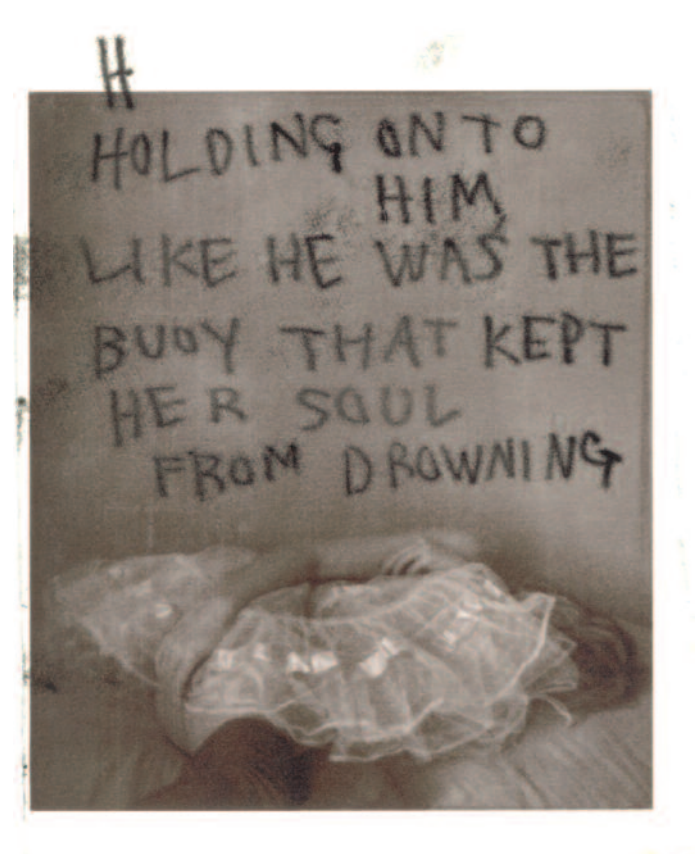
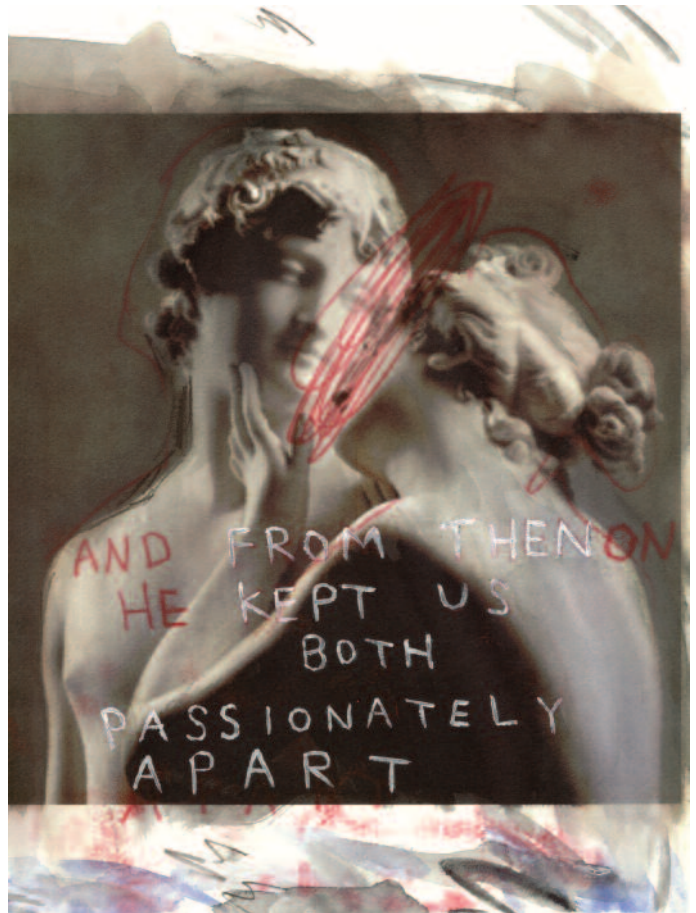


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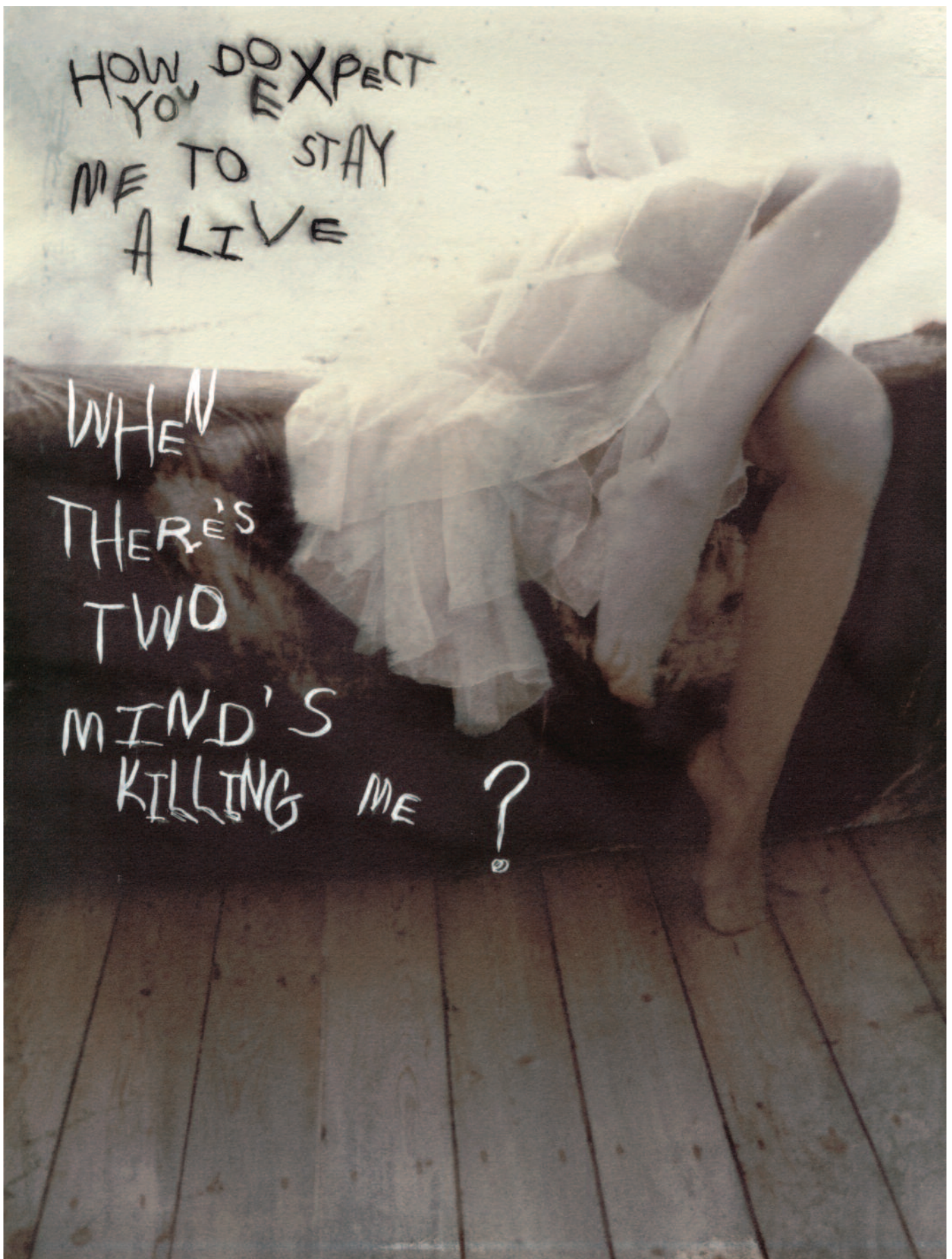


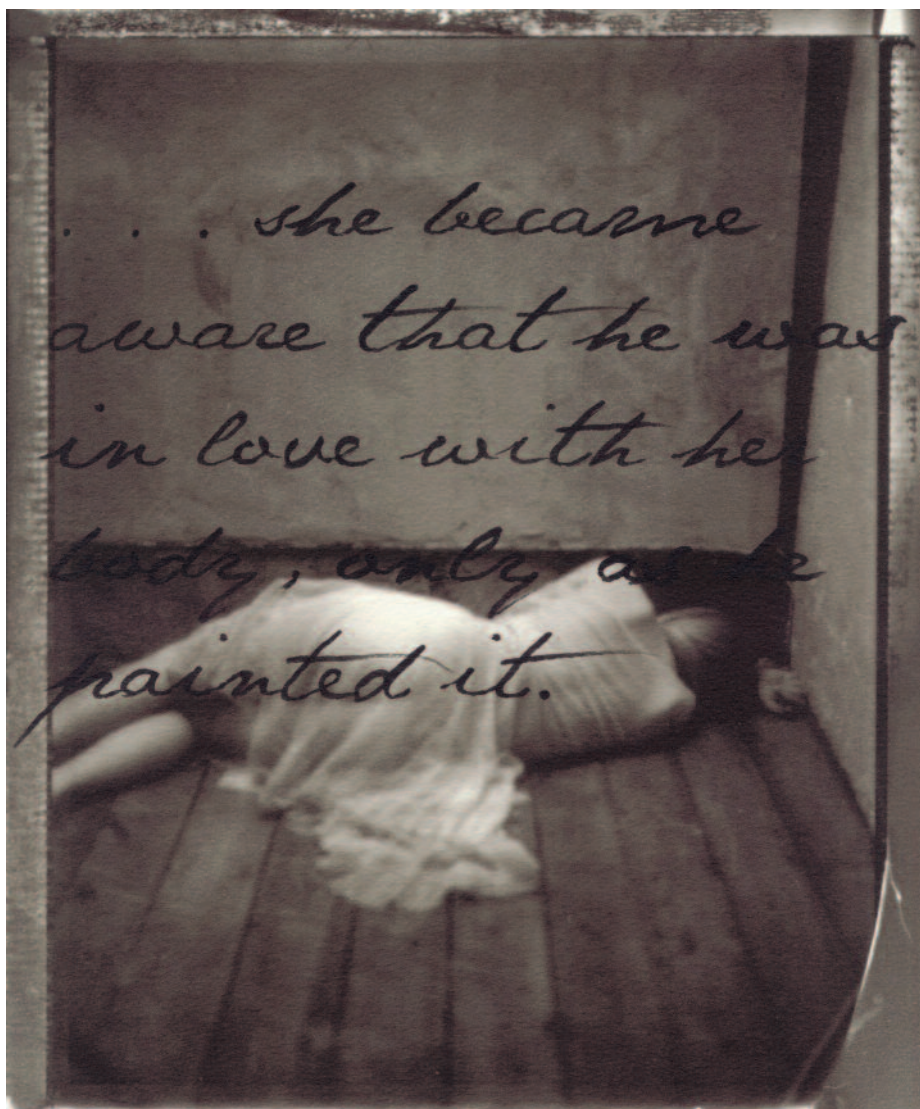
MUSE











I reckon the best person to take great photos of beautiful women is a woman. It goes without saying really and the erotic fairly tale, albeit a thoroughly modern one, should really be crafted with a feminine hand.

Sometimes Helen's photos are almost like a visual representation of a David Sylvian song from the late 1980s, which in my opinion is really something rare in this day and age of total mediocrity, when any idiot with a digital camera reckons they're a photographer.

Helen Lyon is represented by Akehurst Creative Management based in London.  
[www.akehurstcreativemanagement.com](http://www.akehurstcreativemanagement.com)

Editor's Note.

Helen Lyon has worked as a fashion photographer and her images have appeared in magazines such as Harper's Bazaar, Vanity Fair, Marie-Claire, ES plus cover labels for EMI, Sony BMG and Universal records.

The images on the following pages are mixed media and hand printed onto watercolour paper using paints and inks. The small sizes make them very intimate and are printed in editions of only five.



