

deborah bell

PHOTOGRAPHS

PRESS RELEASE

Susan Paulsen *Sarah Rhymes With Clara*

511 W 25th St, Room 703
New York, NY 10001

telephone 212 691 3883

telefax 212 691 3222

deborahbell@rcn.com

Exhibition dates: March 12-April 30, 2011
Reception & book signing: Friday, March 11, 5-8pm

Photographer Susan Paulsen's third solo exhibition in New York City will be on view at Deborah Bell Photographs from March 12-April 30 and will introduce recent archival pigment prints in color as well as black-and-white gelatin silver prints featured in her new Steidl monograph, *Sarah Rhymes With Clara*.

In Vicki Goldberg's eloquent and perceptive essay for *Sarah Rhymes With Clara*, the author states:

"Life's major moments and cataclysms generally arrive with fanfare, but existence tends to be daily, and days fill up with insignificant matters that mean more than they say. Paulsen's life is replete with family, a house, a kitchen, a laundry line, a bed, several dogs, the sea, fruit, sunlight that steals a march on expectations, colors that reverberate, shadows that venture into the avant-garde, and a model who is perfectly comfortable doffing her clothes – Sarah, whose name rhymes with Paulsen's grandmother's and who stands in for the photographer. Nothing happens, but time acquires little punctuation marks that make sense of yesterday and today. There's a hand towel hanging on a rack: hardly momentous, merely a towel, except that it was embroidered by someone Paulsen cared about. In Arkansas, where her relatives live, she takes note of a woman's hand on an old, handwritten page: a record book kept by their common ancestors."

Paulsen also dips into more complex aspects of the medium. As Goldberg notes:

"Devoted as she is to straight photography, [Paulsen] is also at home in the realms of ambiguity and experiment."

The rich and vivid color of Paulsen's archival pigment prints call to mind classical painting. Details of household items, a sitter's lustrous hair, folds of drapery and calming still-life compositions, bathed in subtle yet luminous natural light, are reminiscent of Vermeer and the Renaissance masters in their qualities of light, tone and subject matter.

Susan Paulsen was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1957. Her 2004 exhibition at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, and her elegant first book, *Tomatoes on the Back Porch* (Steidl, 2004), have received international acclaim.

Gallery hours for the exhibition are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6pm. For further information and high-res scans please contact Deborah Bell or Bryan Cipolla by phone at (212) 691-3883 or by email at deborahbell@rcn.com. All photographs copyright © Susan Paulsen.