

So, for my second adventure and wonder through the streets of London, I thought I'd incorporate some of my personal interests and areas that I have a great passion for, (not that the previous places were dull and uninteresting to me, far from it!) but there was a specific exhibition I had in mind, and I thought it would fit in nicely this month (as it is fashion related) what with it being the Autumn/Winter Fashion Weeks and all, and in particular London Fashion week, it really was perfect timing!

The place I had in mind was the [Gimpel Fils Gallery](#), situated just off of Oxford Street in the smart and somewhat overly priced part of central London.

The exhibition in particular was by Photographer Corinne Day, who sadly passed away last year. This exhibition is in memory of her life, career and work within the fashion photography world, in particular, her work for 'Face' magazine in the 80's and 90's. Face magazine produced Day's gritty documentary style images that coined the phrase we will never forget, 'Heroin Chic'. There was a lot of controversy about Day's approach to the so called 'fashion' photo, yet she became a household name and her work is appreciated alongside other world renowned photographers such as Nan Goldin.

This exhibition comes precisely a year after her death, and in perfect time for fashion week, attracting a slightly different crowd than the regular galleries. I was really quite excited about this exhibition, because Corrine Day is one of my most favourite photographers, and I was eager to see some of her work that I had not had the chance to come across before. I was not disappointed.

The exhibition itself is quite simple in it's layout, but once again I was confused before I even entered its doors. I had managed to walk past the building twice before realising I was standing right in front of it staring stupidly at my map book. The front is made up of entirely glass walls, so where I was expecting your typical gallery front with the name clearly situated over the doorway, I was instead faced with an interior view of the gallery space. But eventually I gathered my thoughts and buzzed upon the buzzer, and entered the (rather hot) building. After signing my name and email in the gallery's information book, it was pretty obvious from a first glance that there were not many photographs in the exhibition. However I quite liked how this was done because it gave me more time to appreciate each piece without feeling like I had to rush around to see everything.

In total there are 20 photographs, and only 4 of them are colour. They are all film prints, which to me makes them even more unique.

The photos focus on very early pieces of work that show the subjects plainly as themselves. Day had a great eye and was incredibly talented at drawing out the personality of the model rather than creating a new persona of them. The images have a sort of innocent feel about them, because the models are quite young and appear to be care free and enjoying themselves, which is quite different to the images we see nowadays, where models are very posed and dolled up to the nines in make up and glamorous clothing. But this is the thing I like about Day's work. She took the idea of fashion, by using models

but then used them in a more documentary format, to show how they worked, lived and interacted with each other. It was her ability to focus on the essence of the sitter that made her stand out as a photographer, and that would, ultimately, launch her career along with Kate Moss as her muse.

Downstairs there are about 8 more photographs showing other artists and musicians, fooling around and having fun in front of the camera. These images provide us as the viewer a glimpse into these so-called celebrities' lives, that we would not usually see, and Day manages to make them feel like a personal photo album snap. I think this is one of the main reasons that people are drawn to her work. We see the everyday and familiar in the images, yet we are held back, even shocked by their gritty, raw and sometimes crude details.

After seeing this exhibition, I am now even more fascinated and in love with Corrine Day's photography and her approach to the humungous genre that is, the 'fashion' photograph. I would urge anyone and everyone to see a Corrine Day exhibition. It will open your eyes to the other side of fashion.

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