

## NATALIA GOLDIN GALLERY

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### PRESS RELEASE

SONJA NILSSON

Installation

8th of May – 14th of June 2008

Opening on the 8th of May 17.00 -20.00

We are proud to present Sonja Nilsson's second solo exhibition at the gallery. Sonja Nilsson was born in 1977 and is a graduate of Valand Art College in Gothenburg. She lives and works in Berlin.

An interest in psychological processes is prominent in Sonja Nilsson's works. Observers always find themselves at the centre of Nilsson's installations, right in the middle of an unfolding sequence of unexpected events. Nilsson often makes use of the same techniques and mechanisms used by stage magicians in the creation of illusionary situations that confound and deceive onlookers and observers. Hotel corridors become claustrophobic labyrinths in which one finds oneself pursued by one's own reflection. A gallery displays images from a dream in which one sees oneself lying sleeping. A mirror image becomes more real than the subject reflected. Dead swans visit a stereotypical staircase from a council house when the lights go out. (for more information about the artist's previous works, see the documentation films at [www.sonjanilsson.se](http://www.sonjanilsson.se))

In the new exhibition at the gallery, we are drawn into a room in which we are enveloped by crimson curtains. David Lynch immediately springs to mind; rooms formed by red curtains, rooms that are the passages between different mental states. In the middle of the room we find a table with a chessboard. In chess, there is a particular move in which a pawn, one of the weakest pieces on the board may retreat to the back row and there change sex to become the queen, the strongest piece in the game. In the words of the artist:

"On the chessboard I take the role of the pawn in order to take the step over to the other side. This is the crossing of a border, the beginning of something new and at the same time the end of something, a kind of death. All crossing between sexes is about death; the knowledge of the constant presence of death, and that one's days are numbered. The will to change is also a kind of striving to not be left behind".

For further information and press images, please contact the gallery.

Opening hours: Wed- Fri 12.00 – 18.00, Sat 12.00 – 16.00