

PRESENTATION HOUSE

A CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

333 Chesterfield Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 3G9, 986-1351

MEDIA RELEASE

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Montreal artist **NICOLE JOLICOEUR** will exhibit a new work created for PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY, from April 8 to May 7. This work continues her research on the 19th century Parisian neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot and his theories on feminine "hysteria".

The conception of this new work developed largely in response to the Gallery's selection of a second April exhibition, MASTERPIECES OF MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY. "My intention was to establish a dialectical relation with that exhibition by destabilizing the effect of truthfulness connected to photography (especially scientific photography) and by pointing up the fictional dimension at work both in the manipulation of photographs and in the constitution of theory.

More specifically, it was by appropriating a painting by André Brouillet (1887) and certain documents taken from Iconographies Photographiques de la Salpêtrière (1876-1880), published under the direction of Jean Martin Charcot, that she reconstituted a clinical lesson at la Salpêtrière. "It was at this Paris hospital that Charcot and his colleagues worked relentlessly to bring to light that which, by definition, eluded representation, i.e. hysteria, by developing a theoretical model dominated by patriarchal values of property, order, form, unity and visibility, in which photography was the keystone."

"By creating links that articulate and organize this archival material into a narrative, as did Charcot, I hope to expose the dimension of fiction and fantasy typical of imaginary constructions -- even those produced by science." (the artist).

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication by Nicole Jolicoeur and Toronto psychiatrist/writer Jeanne Randolph (with a translation by Suzanne de Lotbinière-Harwood), produced by the Gallery. The project is generously supported by the Canada Council.

Nicole Jolicoeur will talk about her work on April 10, 7:30 pm. FREE, and open to the public.

Exhibition dates: April 8 to May 7
Opening reception: April 7, 8-10pm
Artist's talk: April 10, 7:30 pm
Gallery Hours: Wed-Sun, 12-5pm; Thurs, 12-9pm

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