



Cheryl McGinnis Fine Art
a contemporary salon

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For immediate release

Photographer Tony Gonzalez Reveals Women's Inner Skin With Nude "Bathers"

At Cheryl McGinnis Fine Art, a contemporary salon

September 23 – October 13, 2005

NEW YORK, (September 7, 2005) -- On September 23, 2005, Cheryl McGinnis Fine Art, a contemporary salon at 215 West 88th Street in Manhattan, is delighted to open its season with compelling new photography by Tony Gonzalez. As an Art Dealer, Ms. McGinnis offers her clients a refreshing opportunity to become participants in an active dialog with the artist as well as with the work. With a strong interest in contemporary feminist issues, Ms. McGinnis now invites viewers to enter a significant conversation about body image and life as ritual from a new perspective.

Photographed in the solitude of their bathing rituals, these women are not alone. Their intimate relationships with thoughts, the pulse and movement of the water, the cool smoothness of porcelain tiles and tubs, and the coarseness of hairbrushes and razors are sensitively exposed through expressions, composition and print texture. Mr. Gonzalez creates unique luminous painterly prints on watercolor paper using a 100-year old hybrid process combining multiple layers of gum arabic with watercolors. This technique also speaks to the individuality and natural beauty of the women themselves. While many 19th century painters popularized the genre of "bathers" by portraying their subjects as generic figures, Mr. Gonzalez pays tribute to each model by including her name within the title. Mr. Gonzalez sees the models not as muses but as collaborators. Uninhibited, the women are aware and accept our presence, becoming a mirror in which we reflect the levels of comfort within our own skin. Monumental in their simplicity, the images heighten everyday cleansing into a mythic rite.

Mr. Gonzalez has been exploring the voyeuristic nature of photography throughout his career. His early black and white work, which intimately portrayed private moments of friends, led him to investigate his own personal history at the Jersey Shore. This series shifted his vision to spontaneous, anonymous and poignant black and white photographs that captured universal yet unexpected moments of pure exuberance and energy that are lost through time and even memory. In his current series of "Bathers," Mr. Gonzalez revisits his work with chosen models. Now working in color and in a larger format, he notes that there are unanticipated similarities between this new series and his Jersey Shore prints. As with all of his images, the viewer becomes a participant in an ongoing dialog between voyeurism and sensory memory.

Cheryl McGinnis Fine Art, a contemporary salon on the upper west side of Manhattan, brings the vitality of art and dynamic conversation into everyday life in the warm atmosphere of historic pre-war architecture. Ms. McGinnis, who welcomes inquires, feels that an art collection is a diary or map of your life, and each piece acquired contributes to who you are. The exhibits are open to the public on weekends from 1:00pm to 5:00pm and during the week by appointment.