

PARIS PHOTO, Avril 2001, Artiste invitée

Photographs 1998-2001

LOVE. My work has often dealt with love and its side effects, the absence or presence of it in its different forms; and the reverse side of love: isolation.

MY AIM. The world is white noise, visual chaos. The artist's job is to extract meaningful fragments out of this mess. Making a photograph is about making choices. Especially in my older work, there was always some underlying reason for each photograph, an urge to make a certain statement. At the same time I was, and am, striving for visual simplicity and clarity. I'm not ashamed of using even the word *beauty* in this context.

PAINTING. "Photography is the new painting", said Edda Jonsdottir, director of gallery i8 in Reykjavik. I am fascinated by the basic questions of visual art: the space and the light; the color and the composition; the dispersion of figures in space; the projection of the three-dimensional into two-dimensional; how the person (the model) is taking his/her place as the object of the gaze. In my ongoing series *The New Painting* I also get rid of the inherent problem of self-portraiture: of "representing oneself". There the person, be it me or somebody else, is present only as a form, as the subject of investigation; not for his/her inner qualities but for the external.

Paris, February 2001

Elina Brotherus