

# ART KEY

## Rome CHANGING ROLE JULIE ORSER

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by Maria Leonardi

Two souls caught in one woman, that of the perfect housewife and that of a femme fatale... suggested by the films of the fifties. Both roles are in fact those imposed by the dominant male, and the American artist Julie Orser presents them in video at Changing Role Gallery of Rome. Anna Moore, the character played by one actress, also bears this dualism in name: Anna is a palindrome you can read in both directions, from left to right, and from right to left. The perfect housewife, innocent in her dress and hairdo, composed in her movements, a cook and queen of the kitchen, the angel of the house, embodies the ideal wife at the service of her husband, a stereotype of submission. A screen shows Anna who moves through a domestic scene, illuminated, fresh and cleaned up, punctual in the details and the colors, from the yellow rubber gloves to the yellow flowers in a vase. In the other projection the femme fatale, exhibits herself as sensual and available, sinful and voluptuous, wrapped in an elegant dress and ready to respond to sexual demands. A double personality,

like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in one female, good and evil, however intentionally still wanted by man and in the service of man. If this is one woman! But where are the dreams? And which is the true woman? A chilling scream that burst suddenly is the artistic element that unites and exceeds the dualism of the images, it is the resurrection of the real female, natural and wild, buried for centuries in physical and psychological slavery, hidden beneath the imposed stereotypes. The interior life of women that runs like an underground river beneath the surface coated and deceptive is a powerful force, free and creative, which seeks to come to light. The work of Julie Orser intent on depicting the suffocating environment of the fifties, but it does reflect particularly well on today's society, where nothing has changed for women. Indeed, to these old stereotypes, if they are, we've added new ones, such as the obsessive thinness of models imitated by girls with anorexia, or the obsession of successful managers. At the same time, achievements painstakingly made over the years, such as the right to medically assisted abortion are being swallowed up in a vortex of new obscurity. Where is the real woman? Only the scream remained, but it is an act that can evoke powerful freedom. And then we scream, scream, scream, to finally come to light.



Julie Orser -Anna Moore, video still | Courtesy Changing Role