

## PRESS RELEASE

### JAMIE DIAMOND: I PROMISE TO BE A GOOD MOTHER

**contemporary art by appointment** is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition **I Promise to be a Good Mother**, works by the American artist **Jamie Diamond** curated by Karline Moeller (hosted by Level Five). This is Diamond's first solo show in Germany.

On display in the gallery is a selection from Diamond's ongoing series: I Promise to be a Good Mother. In this body of work Diamond explores the relationship between mother and child, tackling its various intricacies and complexities. Embracing self-portraiture, Diamond plays the role of the mother. Loosely based on the artist's own relationship with her mother, Diamond consolidates her childhood with visions of what she believes it means to be a mother.

She challenges the expectations of the relationship, both by isolating specific moments and by suggesting what the title in fact promises. With closer observation, the viewer realizes that the child in the series is an incredibly lifelike plastic doll. Some images prove more unnerving than others: here Diamond captures the elusive instances when the bond between mother and child is tested. Not only does this provide a fiendish element of humor to the series, but also it explains that there exists a constant duality in Diamond's work. Diamond demands closer attention from the viewer: is the artist addressing the fragility of being a mother? Is she mocking the entire experience by using a doll? What artifices of motherhood is the artist intent on revealing?

Diamond's photographs in this series – where she is both subject and observer – become the sly ephemera and sturdy testament to her performance. In similar fashion to Cindy Sherman's role-playing, Diamond's uncanny portrayal of the mother proves entirely believable, capturing candid mother/child moments that inhabit on one side the unrivaled intimate bond between the two parties and on the other side exposing the vulnerability of motherhood. Each image exhibited requires the viewer to interpret the situation: there is both a lighthearted, as well as, a foreboding sensation.

In one image that beautifully recalls the work of Hiroshi Sugimoto, Diamond appears on a dock in front of a massive, looming body of water. Is the mother simply posing for a portrait or is something more threatening about to occur? This duality persists and one is left to decipher the tone on one's own accord.

Diamond raises questions with this body of work that force the viewer to reconsider the social structure of the relationship between mother and child, and what it ultimately means when a woman promises to be a good mother.

- text by Karline Moeller

# AJLART

*since 2012*

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## LINKS

JAMIE DIAMOND WEBSITE:

<http://www.jamiegdiamond.com>

PHAIDON ONLINE MAGAZINE:

<http://de.phaidon.com/agenda/photography/picture-galleries/2012/february/06/jamie-diamond-brings-the-family/>

JAMIE DIAMOND INTERVIEW IN DUMMY MAGAZINE:

<http://photoupenn.blogspot.de/2012/01/jamie-diamond-lecturer-interviewed-in.html>

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