

JEFF CHARBONNEAU & ELIZA FRENCH
MASSILLON
 NEW BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

04 OCTOBER - 04 NOVEMBER 2008

OPENING RECEPTION
 SATURDAY 04 OCTOBER 5-7PM

BERGAMOT STATION ARTS CENTER / GALLERY C2



October 2008, Santa Monica, CA – Robert Berman Gallery is pleased to present MASSILLON: the first exclusive presentation of large-scale photographs by Jeff Charbonneau & Eliza French. On view 04 October through 04 November, 2008.

Trained as an anthropologist/musician, and an art historian respectively, artists Jeff Charbonneau & Eliza French collaborate to produce staged photographs that transform personal family folklore, and childhood reminiscence into scenes rich in fantasy, melancholy and seduction.

Massillon is the true story of ancestor Zeta Eliza Woolley, transposed through the surreal imaginings of the artists into a fairy-tale of suffering and unpredictable beauty. Each photograph is part of an unraveling narrative, derived from the memories and dreams inspired by Woolley's life and death in Massillon, Ohio in the late 1800's.

Combining a love for Victorian era aesthetics and 19th century craftsmanship, the artists produce large-scale photographs of rare texture and depth using medium and large format film, and traditional black and white darkroom techniques.

Jeff Charbonneau & Eliza French, writes critic and curator Peter Frank, "have compiled an impressive body of work brimming with mystery and sensuality, self-consciously but elegantly Gothic – stills, it would seem, from an Edgar Allen Poe film adaptation directed by Ingmar Bergman, or Fellini's take on Lewis Carroll."

Massillon will travel to the Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, in January, 2009. The artists' work will also be included in the exhibition *The Art of Caring* opening at the New Orleans Museum of Art in February 2009 and traveling to museums across the country through 2011. This group show features 175 photographs from some of the world's leading photographers including Sally Mann, Nan Goldin, Larry Sultan and Nicholas Nixon, along with work of contemporary emerging photographers.

A Los Angeles Reception for the Artists will be held Saturday, 04 October, 2008 from 5 – 7pm.

Robert Berman Gallery is located at Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404, Gallery C2. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm. For additional information, please contact Robert Berman Gallery at 310.315.1937 voice, 310.315.9688 fax, or berman@artnet.net.