

Berlin Charim Ungar

press release

Jan Lauwers

06. Februar -12. März 2010

Eröffnung/ opening reception: 05. February 2010

Jan Lauwers presents:

The Archives of Saul J. Waner

A small introduction

An installation with watercolours: *'Mickey Venus', The Evaporated Woman.*

1 photograph: 1956, summer.

In 'The Archives of Saul J. Waner', an anagram of Jan Lauwers, the artist tells in watercolours, photos and installation of his young man's quest for his mother, Mickey Venus, a woman he had never known and whom, obsessed by her absence, he took as his muse. Her existence was only revealed after his father's death in 2002. On his deathbed, his father told him that he had been conceived in a small nomad's tent in the Far North. After his death he found three small photos of this tent in his father's house in Hoboken. They had been mounted in a secret family album. The caption said:

'1956, August. I have never experienced such a sultry night. The Laps are the heartiest of people. While they spent the night amongst their reindeer, I was making wonderful love with Mickey Venus in this smoke-permeated tent. If a child is born as a result, we shall call him Saul, said Mickey. After Paul, before God struck him down.'

By coincidence, the name Saul can be made from the letters in Jan Lauwers' name. And this is how his alter ego, Saul J. Waner, was born.

Jan Lauwers (Antwerp, 1957) is an artist who works in just about every medium. Over the last twenty years he has become best known for his pioneering stage work with Needcompany. Over the years he has built up a substantial body of art work which was shown in a solo exhibition at BOZAR (Brussels) in 2007 curated by Jérôme Sans. Lauwers was recently invited at the group show curated by_vienna 09. He showed a huge installation entitled DECONSTRUCTION at haus der kunst in Munich in 2007. In '97 he was invited for the DOCUMENTA X and he worked together on several group exhibitions curated by Luk Lambrecht in Belgium.