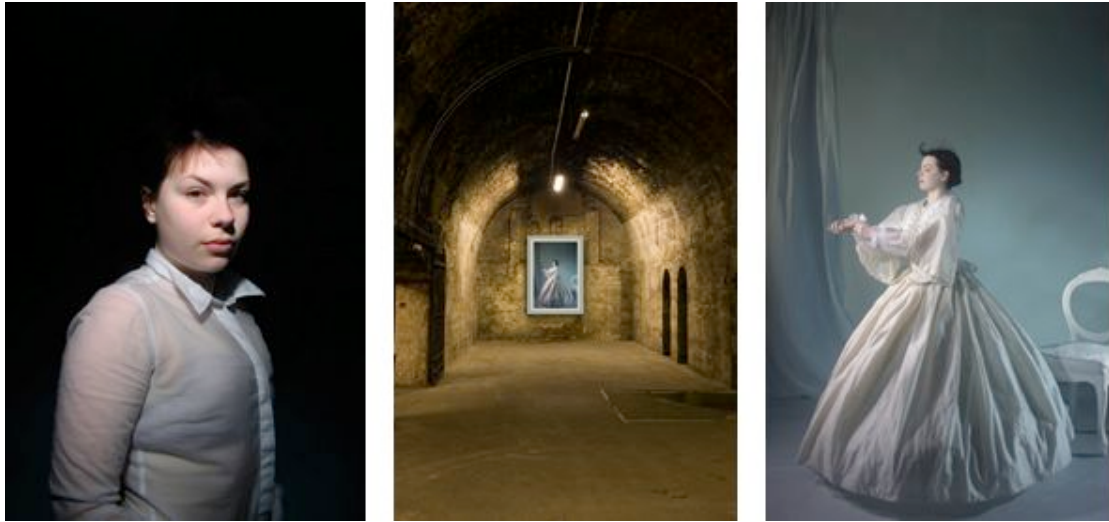


THE FEAR OF FALLING



Images from left to right: 'Portrait 1', previous work; mock up of the project within exhibition space; *The Fear of Falling* test shot.

The Fear of Falling is a series of beautiful, timeless life-size underwater portraits that present new ways to consider the profound experience of submergence. Exploring our changing relationship to the present moment whilst immersed, the subject, wearing a handmade period costume from around the advent of photography, moves away from the ethereal and floating imagery usually associated with water and offers instead a more grounded and weighted sense of being. With a gentle nod towards the Industrial Revolution and the making processes surrounding that era, the portraits pose the question; could the shifts in consciousness whilst immersed be akin to those experienced centuries ago?

This exquisite series will be exhibited at the prestigious Shunt Vaults in September 2008, a stunning venue empathetic with the subject matter of the work. Renowned for cutting edge performance, *The Fear of Falling* will be Shunt's first photographic exhibition of this kind and their first step into the visual arts. The exhibition is supported by Arts Council England, Photofusion Photography Gallery, Action Underwater Studios amongst other prominent businesses and organisations. Metro Imaging have guaranteed a second national show in 2009.

The Fear of Falling is the brainchild of Emma Critchley and Sophie Lewis, two artists from unique yet similar backgrounds, who have been collaborating together since 2004. Emma's award winning underwater photography has been recognised both nationally and internationally with exhibitions in Spain, Canada and Australia as well as the UK. Sophie, a pioneer of water movement therapy and expert in her field, alongside working on numerous underwater art-based projects, has received widespread recognition for her work and has been featured on Radio 4's Woman's Hour, in The Daily Telegraph and Time Out magazine. Together their practice explores the human connection with water and pushes the boundaries of underwater photography.