

# ART

## EVA STENRAM

According to French director Jean-Luc Godard, 'Photography is truth' but it is this medium's unique ability to manipulate that repeatedly stirs up debate.

For the Swedish photographer Eva Stenram, stretching the limits of photography is at the heart of her work. Combining her own photography with found pictures and digitally altering them to unsettling effect, Stenram's images 'Rework, bend or break... so that our expectations of how they function become frustrated or inverted.'

Frequently taking nature as her starting point, Stenram, a graduate of the Royal College of Art, is also influenced by the films of Alfred Hitchcock and their sense of foreboding and imminent danger. Portraying a tree crammed with bird boxes suggests an avian council estate, while CCTV cameras positioned en masse amongst branches in a seemingly empty forest adds a sinister tension.

Similarly in 'pornography/forest pics' Stenram uses internet sourced pornographic images set again in forests and digitally removes the human bodies. By erasing the focal point but leaving visual markers such as rugs and discarded clothing, the works hint at something terrible and echo forensic photography.

In the recent series 'Birds in Flight' dramatic monochrome skies act as a filmic backdrop to wild birds. Playing with their natural flight patterns and subverting notions of freedom, the works recall iconic images of WWII fighter planes and airborne battles.

Eva Stenram's complex photography depicts the world as it truly is; a place of beauty and danger. ■■■

### Contacts

[www.evastenram.co.uk](http://www.evastenram.co.uk)

