

# THE LITTLE BLACK GALLERY



The Little Black Gallery is proud to present an exhibition of new works by Norwegian artist **Anja Niemi**

## **She Could Have Been A Cowboy by Anja Niemi**

*Suppose I were to tell you  
about this cowboy  
who's not really a cowboy,  
not in the regular sense of the term,  
not in the sense that she drives cattle,  
or rides horses,  
or wears cowboy hats,  
not yet anyway.*

*This cowboy is imaginary  
but she exists,  
like a sculpture trapped  
inside a block of marble  
waiting for her line of flight,  
waiting for the sculptor  
to start chiseling away at the stone.*

**by Lena Niemi \***

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In her latest series, **Anja Niemi** continues her investigations of the self. This time she turns the lens to a life lived under the constraints of conformity. Every day her fictional character finds herself trapped in the same pink dress, but what she really wants is to be a cowboy, dressed in fringe and leather, riding horses in the Wild West. Through this series of photographs with multiple layers and possible interpretations, Niemi delivers her most political work to date.

*"The story is not really about being a cowboy. It's about wanting to be another."* **Anja Niemi**

In order to visualize the imaginary world of her character Niemi had to experience it for herself. Alone in a rental car, dressed as a cowboy, Niemi visited and photographed all the places on her character's annotated maps. She hiked up and down the mountains of America's national parks and rode a horse on the same field John Wayne filmed one of his famous horse battles. Always trying to be what her character would have wanted, unafraid and unaffected by others.

Niemi works alone, photographing, staging and acting out the characters in all of her images.

**She Could Have Been A Cowboy** launches at **Steven Kasher Gallery** in New York from 1 March - 14 April 2018 (*including AIPAD - The Photography Show*), followed by **Photo London** 17-20 May, and finally at **The Ravestijn Gallery** in Amsterdam during **Unseen** from 8 September - 21 October. A book of the same name is to be published by **Jane & Jeremy**.

**Anja Niemi** (b 1976) is a critically acclaimed and highly collectible Norwegian fine art photographer. Her works have been exhibited worldwide; she has published three books; and broke her auction record in 2017. [View her biography here.](#)

**Please contact the gallery for press images and all inquiries.**

*\* The poem by Lena Niemi, sister of Anja, is an excerpt from a longer text accompanying Anja Niemi's photographs in the book 'She Could Have Been A Cowboy'.*