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Otherscapes

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This series of photographs explores the idea of the beautiful young woman dropped like a Monopoly house into a location at odds with her perfect appearance. It takes inspiration from Pre-Raphaelite artworks, where the sitters recline gracefully amid artfully gathered gowns, passively awaiting a tragedy only hinted at by a slight pout of the lips. Even when fully submerged in rivers on their way to an untimely demise, every limb and lock of hair is perfectly positioned to give the viewer the best window onto their beauty. No allowance is given for the discomfort of the pose, the impossible neckline which would cause the dress to fall to the floor if the sitter stood, the cold water seeping through the rich fabric. All consideration is for the viewer.

In this story we begin by taking our heroine and depositing her into a decaying, many-roomed castle. She begins lost, like Alice in Wonderland, vulnerable, drifting in her finery and looking for rescue from some approaching threat. As the series progresses, she starts to welcome her environment, becoming a true explorer and inviting the encroaching plant and insect life to curl around her. By the final frames she is entirely comfortable in her surroundings and is no longer positioned for the satisfaction of the viewer. Her fabric drapes in line with her own requirements and intruders are no longer welcome.

Styling and photography by Jade Starmore
Headpieces and shoes by Deniz Uster/Otherscapes Studio
Modelling by Rebecca Wyman.



























