

Through Oct 22

Roger Ballen and Asger Carlsen: No Joke

Dittrich & Schlechtriem, Mitte

★★★★☆☆

Ballen and Carlsen are showing the results of their artistic exchange over email and Skype for the last few years – and they're pretty disturbing. Black and white, primarily nude photographs have been drawn on and digitally collaged, disfiguring body parts and infusing American Apparel-esque shots with McCarthy, Basquiat, Kentridge and Sherman.

The works confront the dark corners of the mind, where alien forms, creepy masks, giant spiders and dead animals lurk. Drawn figures loom voyeuristically around young, classically beautiful female bodies combined with the ageing bodies of the artists. Due to the flawless digital collage characteristic of Carlsen's work everything feels "real" even after it has met Ballen's charcoal-smudged dark spaces, which went big with his 2012 Die Antwoord video "I Fink You Freaky".

The horrifically captivating series of 37 images is being shown in full for the first time, and mark the perfect fusion of the two artist's terribly individual ways of imagining the intangible world around them. You'll wish you could un-see them, but you won't be able to look away. — **ART**

Right: Roger Ballen and Asger Carlsen, courtesy of Dittrich & Schlechtriem

Top centre: Trisha Baga, LOAF, Société

Far right: Florian Misenberg, courtesy of the artist and Wentrup

