

DANIELA COMANI
MY FILM HISTORY
DANIELA COMANI'S TOP 100 FILMS



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Charlie James Gallery is pleased to present My Film History - Daniela Comani's Top 100 Films, a solo exhibition of Berlin-based artist Daniela Comani. This is Comani's second solo show with the gallery.

In response to canonical lists like the AFI Top 100, Daniela Comani has created her own list of timeless film masterpieces, and illustrated that list with the movie posters for each film. In Daniela Comani's Top 100 Films, however, gender assignments are reversed: Bunuel's Belle de Jour becomes Beau du Jour, and Catherine Deneuve is suddenly mustachioed. All the President's Men becomes All The President's Women, the lovely Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford now wear red lipstick. Comani intends the series to unfold slowly, one by one, like a wave of historical reversals. At first glance a witty feminist subversion, collectively the pieces drive moments of recognition of where woman exist in film history, and where they do not. Film narratives are reconsidered along gender lines - what if the Godfather was a woman, or Almodovar's Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown were men? This kind of detournement is typical of Comani's practice: In previous projects she has applied her subversive touch to the Western literary canon, to contemporary European magazines like Der Spiegel, and to the key events of the twentieth century.

Daniela Comani was born in Bologna, Italy in 1965; she lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Comani's multimedia installations engage in a dialogue about history, language, identity, alienation and intimacy. Her work focuses on media images and text, which she manipulates through photography and video, and combines in her drawings and installations. Her work has been shown internationally, including the Museo d'Arte Moderna, Bologna and the 54th Venice Biennale . She is included in the collections of Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem; Museo d'Arte Moderna, Bologna; and Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin.

LA WEEKLY

THIS ARTIST WAS IRRITATED AT MALE-DOMINATED HOLLYWOOD, SO SHE SWITCHED THE GENDERS ON 100 MOVIE POSTERS

By Catherine Wagley Wed, January 14, 2015



Read through the American Film Institute's list of the top 100 films and you'll notice the prominence of movies with male protagonists: Citizen Kane, The Graduate, The Godfather, Raging Bull, The General. There but outnumbered are Snow White and All About Eve.

Berlin-based artist Daniela Comani recognized this "overdose," as she puts it, and created posters and framed DVD covers from her own invented "film history." In the films she imagines, genders are switched — All the President's Men becomes All the President's Women. She has done work such as this before, obsessively photographing well over 100 classic novels and then subtly altering



the titles digitally (a vintage version of Bernard Shaw's *Woman and Superwoman* is particularly striking).

Her altered movie posters can be understated, too. "People don't realize the change right away but feel that there is something wrong," Comani says via email. "I am interested in a subtle irritation, which leads to rethinking our social structures: What if history were different?"

Here are three of her 100 posters, which are at Charlie James Gallery in Chinatown through Feb. 28:

The Elephant Woman

Comani enjoyed David Lynch's 1980 film *The Elephant Man* when she saw it as a teenager. "When working on the poster, I realized the double meaning of the sentences: 'I AM A HUMAN BEING' ... 'I AM A MAN,'" she says.

Those words appear in all caps on the original grainy, dark poster. Did they imply, maybe without intending to, that men were the primary humans? And what did changing "man" to "woman" do in this context?

It makes the film's premise more "precious and ambiguous" to Comani, who wrote short plot synopses of each film for *My Film History*, the book she published in 2013. She describes *The Elephant Woman* as being about disfigured Johanna Merrick, who has been exhibited in a circus "to her great anguish" but will "finally begin to live like a human being."



The Woman Who Knew Too Much

In Alfred Hitchcock's 1956 version of *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, Jimmy Stewart plays a doctor on vacation in Morocco with his wife, played by Doris Day. They both learn of a plot to assassinate a foreign prime minister, but it's the doctor the villains seem more worried about.

In Comani's version, the image barely changes but the woman is emphasized. "Our interpretation of pictures changes automatically depending on the title," she says. "When reading *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, we look at the man's face. When reading *The Woman Who Knew Too Much*, we look at Doris Day's face, asking ourselves what her expression might mean."

Beau de Jour

"I couldn't resist giving Catherine Deneuve the moustache," says Comani, who faithfully reproduced the creases and faded colors of a vintage poster for Luis Buñuel's *Belle du Jour*, then drew on the star's face as a teenage prankster might. "With all those carefully shaved men in the background, it had to be done!"

In Buñuel's 1967 film, the restless stay-at-home wife of a bourgeois doctor wanders into a brothel and becomes a prostitute by day. Comani imagines the wife as the doctor and the husband as the comfortable but restless one who begins acting out sexual fantasies. "I find my version — the flipped version — much more thrilling and, above all, less obvious," Comani explains. "The original film from 1967 is full of stereotypes ... a man's fantasy! And those stereotypes and clichés are the actual protagonists of my project."

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Queen Kong
Archival Pigment Print
27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
2012



The Woman Who Fell to Earth
Archival Pigment Print
27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
2012



Das Kabinett der Frau Dr. Caligari
Archival Pigment Print
27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
2012

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Un Homme Est Un Homme
Archival Pigment Print
27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
2012

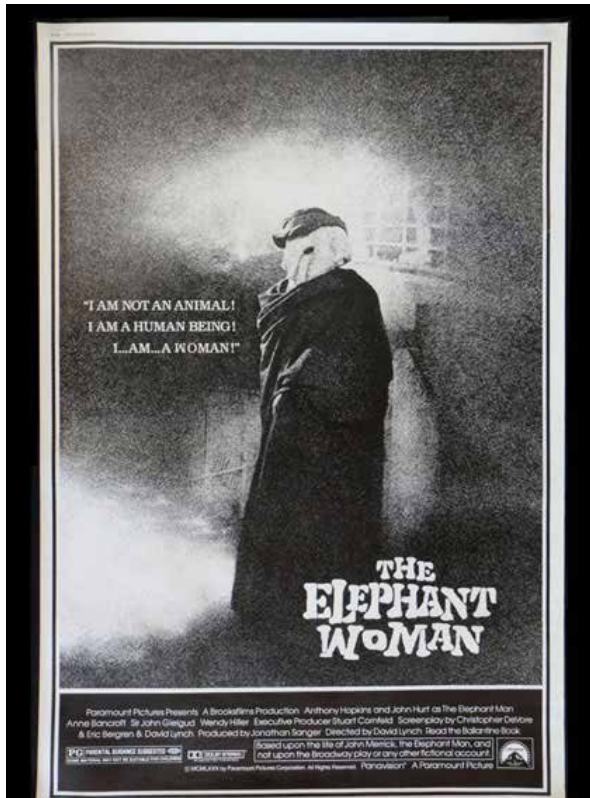


Beau De Jour
Archival Pigment Print
27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
2012

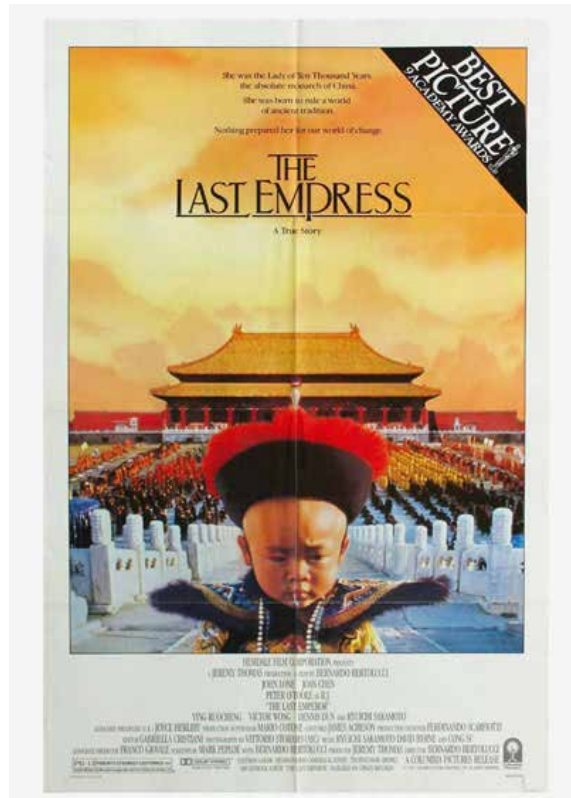


Papa Roma
Archival Pigment Print
27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
2012

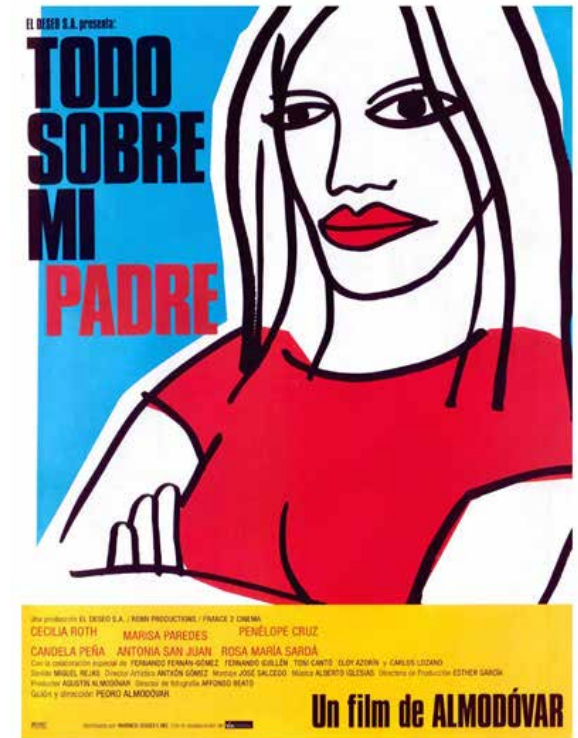
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The Elephant Woman
 Archival Pigment Print
 27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
 2012



The Last Empress
 Archival Pigment Print
 27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
 2012



Todo Sobre Mi Padre
 Archival Pigment Print
 27 ½ x 19 ¾ inches
 2012

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All The President's Women
Archival Pigment Print
7.5 x 5.5 x .5 inches
unframed
17 x 14 x 2.25 inches framed
Edition of 5
2012

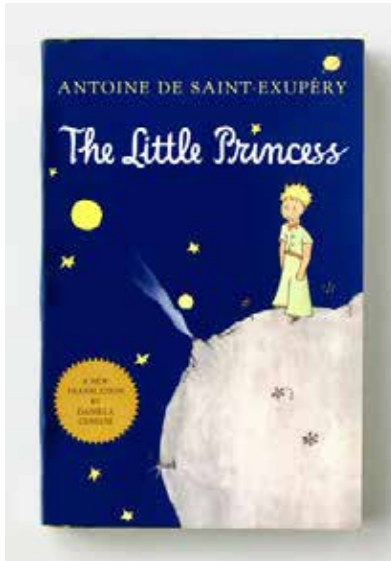
Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde
Archival Pigment Print
7.5 x 5.5 x .5 inches
unframed
17 x 14 x 2.25 inches framed
Edition of 5
2012

Das Kabinett der Frau Dr. Caligari
Archival Pigment Print
7.5 x 5.5 x .5 inches
unframed
17 x 14 x 2.25 inches framed
Edition of 5
2012

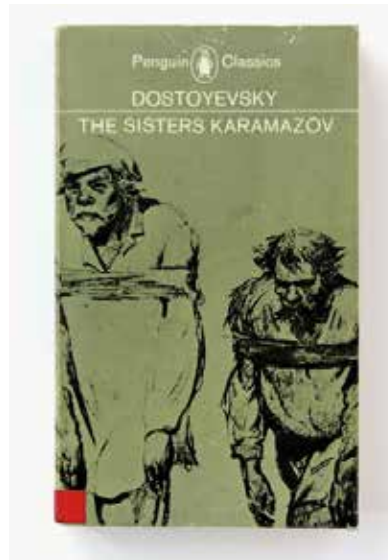
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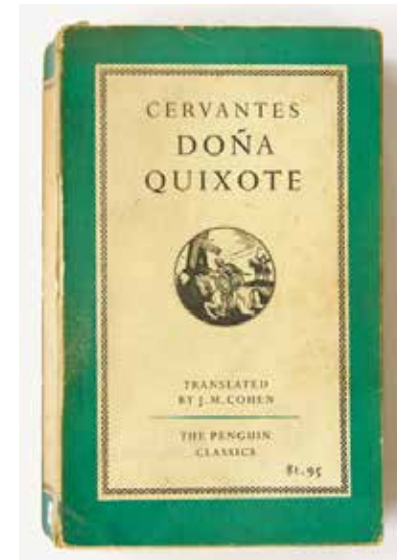
DANIELA COMANI
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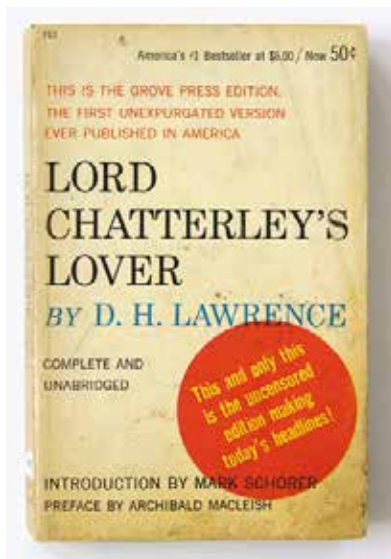
The Little Princess
New Publications
Vol. 2
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



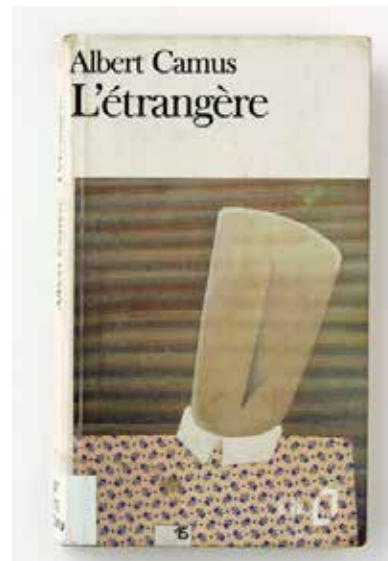
The Sisters Karamazov
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



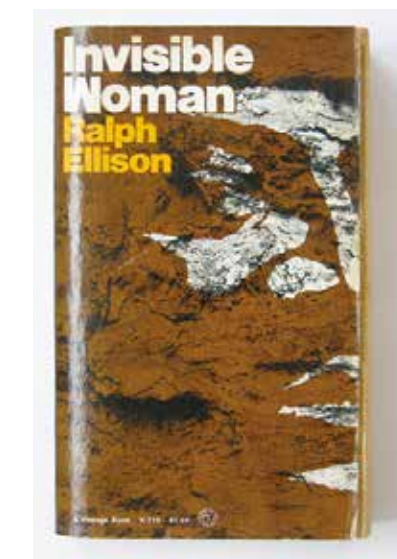
Dona Quixote
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



Lord Chatterley's Lover
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints

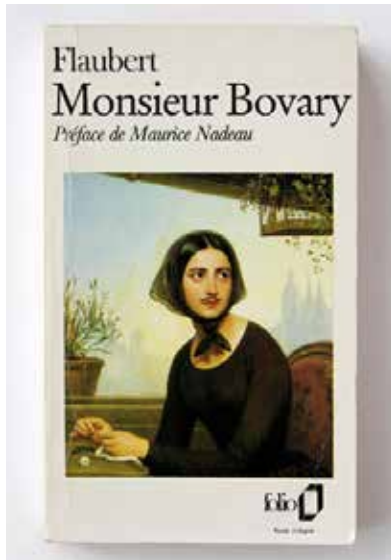


L'etrangere
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



Invisible Woman
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints

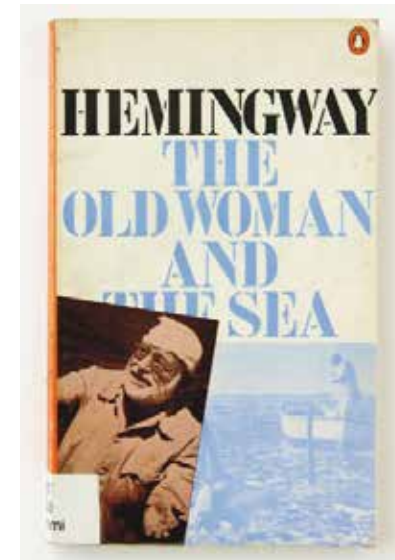
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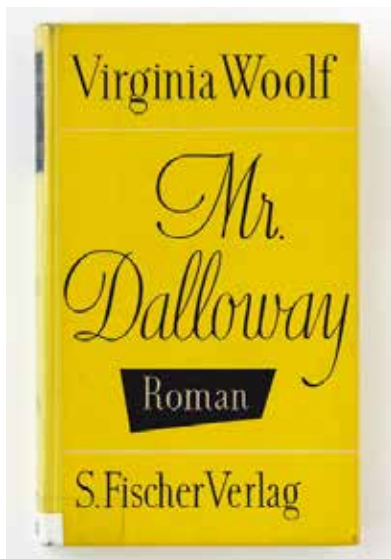
Monsieur Bovary
 New Publications
 Vol. 1
 Mixed Media
 Edition of 5
 Archival Pigment
 Prints



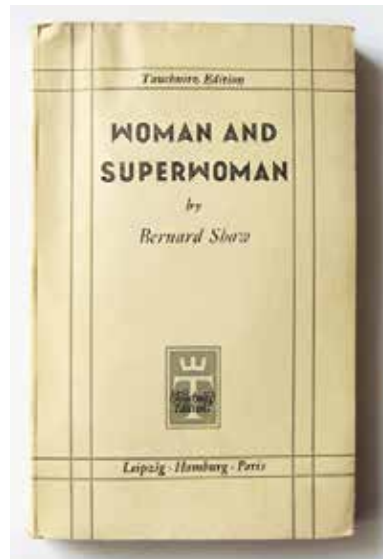
Le Beau et La Bête
 New Publications
 Vol. 1
 Mixed Media
 Edition of 5
 Archival Pigment
 Prints



The Old Woman
 and the Sea
 New Publications
 Vol. 1
 Mixed Media
 Edition of 5
 Archival Pigment
 Prints



Mr. Dalloway
 New Publications
 Vol. 1
 Mixed Media
 Edition of 5
 Archival Pigment
 Prints

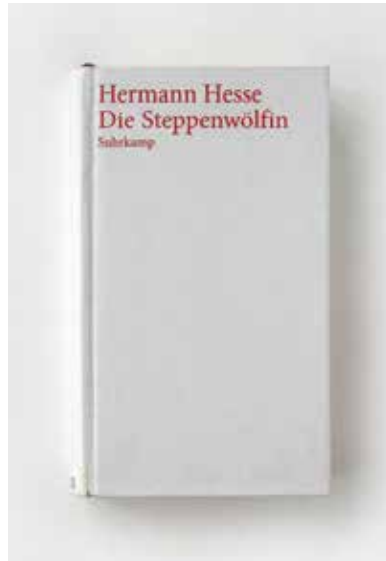


Woman and
 Superwoman
 New Publications
 Vol. 1
 Mixed Media
 Edition of 5
 Archival Pigment
 Prints

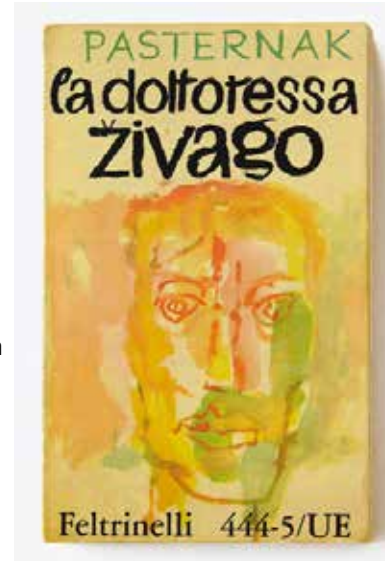


Die Spielerin
 New Publications
 Vol. 1
 Mixed Media
 Edition of 5
 Archival Pigment
 Prints

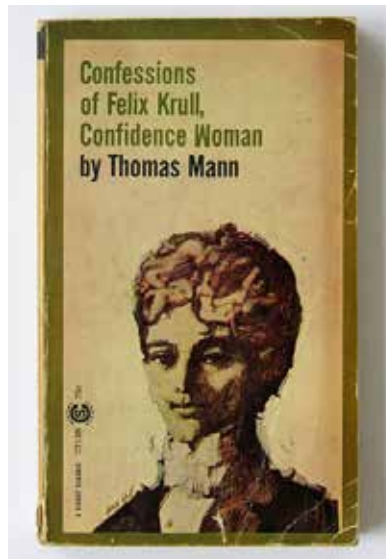
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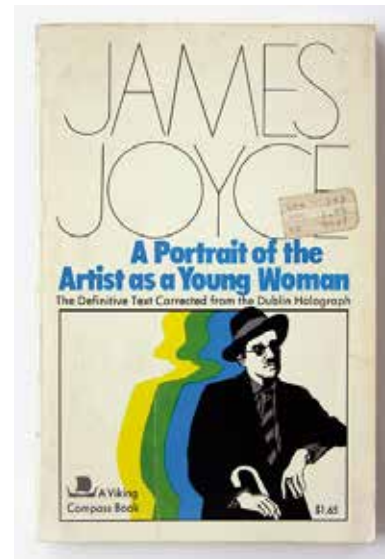
Die Steppewölfin
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



La Doltoressa
Zivago
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



Confessions of
Felix Krull,
Confidence Woman
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
Edition of 5
Archival Pigment
Prints



A Portrait of the
Artist as a Young
Woman
New Publications
Vol. 1
Mixed Media
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Prints

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Born in Bologna, lives and works in Berlin

Education

1993 MFA, Hochschule der Künste, Berlin
1992 Student exchange, Surikow Institut, Moscow
1989-1993 Hochschule der Künste, Berlin
1985-1989 DAMS Arte, Università degli Studi, Bologna
1984-1988 Accademia di Belle Arti, Bologna

Grants and Awards

2013 Buchförderung, Kunstfonds, Bonn
2012 Projektförderung, Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Lichtenberg, Berlin
2009 Arbeitsstipendium Bildende Kunst, Senatskanzlei für Kulturelle Angelegenheiten, Berlin
2008 Projektförderung, Senatskanzlei für Kulturelle Angelegenheiten, Berlin
2007 U2-Alexanderplatz, NGBK, Berlin
2005 Artist in Residence, C.A.R.K., Kanazawa, Japan
2005 Goldrausch Künstlerinnenprojekt, Berlin
2001 Artist in Residence, Center of Art Maebashi, Gunma, Japan
2001 Fine Arts grant from the Berlin Senate for Cultural Affairs, Berlin
1999 Grund-Kredit-Bank Art Award, Berlin
1996 Karl-Hofer-Gesellschaft Art Award, Berlin
1994 Photography grant from the Berlin Senate for Cultural Affairs, Berlin
1993 Studio grant at Karl-Hofer-Gesellschaft, Berlin
1993 DAAD travel grant for Russia and Japan
1992 NaFÖG, post graduate research grant, Hochschule der Künste, Berlin
1986 Studio grant at Collegio Artistico Venturoli, Bologna

Selected Exhibitions

2015 My Film History - Daniela Comani's Top 100 Films, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2014

raus hier, Kunstpavillon im alten Botanischen Garten, München
Takeover, Gildar Gallery, Denver, Colorado
Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900-1999, dkw - Kunstmuseum
Dieselkraftwerk, Cottbus
Collezione Farnesina Arte, Roma
My Film History, Galleria Studio G7, Bologna
Liebe/Love, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein
Pausen Bilder 1-11, Ozean, Berlin

2013

Weißer normen der Macht, GrazMuseum, Graz, Austria
10 Jahre "Eine glückliche Ehe" 2003-2013, Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin (solo)*
Accoppiamenti giudiziosi, Nuova Galleria Morone, Milano *
Autoritratti. Iscrizioni del femminile nell'arte italiana contemporanea, MAMbo, Bologna *
Cumuli, Verein zur Förderung von Kunst und Kultur am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz e.V., Berlin *
Behauptungen auf Papier - nonchalant, en passant und absolut, Galerie Grazy / Werkstatt Graz, Austria
She Says, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

2012

Le Printemps de Septembre: History is Mine!, Musée les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France *
C_artelibro. Il principio delle pagine, Biblioteca Universitaria, Bologna *
Novità editoriali a cura di Daniela Comani, Corraini, Mantova, Italy (solo)*
History, Film and Dynamite, Kirk Hopper Fine Art, Dallas, Texas (solo)
Daniela Comani's Top 100 Films, after the butcher, Berlin (solo)
The Cross Shown, Nuova Galleria Morone, Milano *
Capital Offense: The End(s) of Capitalism, Beacon Arts Building, Los Angeles

2011

Lascia un segno, Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna *
I Know What You Don't See, Karlin Studios, Futura Centre for

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Contemporary Art, Prague
Doublespeak, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, Utah
PULSE Projects 2011, Los Angeles
Verbale 2, Studio Esther Stocker, Wien
Sex/Twist, Kirk Hopper Fine Art, Dallas, Texas
54th Venice Biennale / Repubblica di San Marino Pavilion, Venice, Italy *
Macht Geschichte! - X Wohnungen, 16. Internationale Schillertage, Nationales Theater, Mannheim, Germany
Schon wieder und nochmal? - Handlungsspielräume, Kunstverein Medienturm, Graz, Austria
If Library/If Book, Careof - La Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano *
Your Home in Berlin, Berlin Carré am Alexanderplatz, Berlin
366 Days, 52 Bookcovers and 1 Happy Couple, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles (solo)
Washed Out, Konsthall C, Stockholm, Sweden

2010
Überblendungen. Das Zukünftige rekonstruieren, Shedhalle, Zurich
Courier, University Art Museum, University at Albany, State University of New York *
C'était moi. Journal 1900-1999, Centre d'Art Passerelle, Brest (solo) *
Press Art. Die Sammlung Annette und Peter Nobel, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg *
Please Me Fashion, Palazzo Ducale, Sabbioneta *
The Fate of Irony, KAI 10 Raum für Kunst, Düsseldorf *
ITaliens. Junge Kunst in der Botschaft, Botschaft der italienischen Republik, Berlin *
Nouvelles parutions éditées par Daniela Comani, Centre d'Art Passerelle, Brest (solo) *
Ich weiss was du nicht siehst, Kunstraum Kreuzberg / Bethanien, Berlin
365/51/1 Daniela Comani, Souterrain, Berlin (solo)
Milan/Marseille #2. Mal d'archive, La Friche La Belle de Mai, Marseille
Selected Artists, RealismusStudio / NGBK, Berlin *

2009
#3 Presenti, Musée de l'OHM c/o Museo Civico Medievale, Bologna
Zeigen. Eine Audiotour durch Berlin von Karin Sander, Temporäre Kunsthalle, Berlin *
Kaléidoscope d'Italie, Centre national de l'audiovisuel, Dudelange, Luxembourg *
Novità editoriali a cura di Daniela Comani, Galleria Studio g7, Bologna (solo) *
Revisiting - Videoscreening, The Building, Berlin
Portrait: Berlin, Goethe-Institut Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires Photo
fake or feint, Szenario 5, Berlin Carré am Alexanderplatz, Berlin *
Neuerscheinungen hrsg. von Daniela Comani, Laura Mars Grp., Berlin (solo) *
STILL / MOVING / STILL, International Photo Festival Knokke-Heist, Belgium

2008
Focus on Contemporary Italian Art, MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna, Bologna
Three Men in a Boat, General Public, Berlin
Daniela Comani invited by Ludwig Seyfarth, Anna-Catharina Gebbers Bibliothekswohnung, Berlin
Sono stata io. Diario 1900-1999, Neon>FdV, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano (solo) *
Not so Private: Studio G7, Villa delle Rose, Bologna *
I Queerelanti, Neon>Campobase, Bologna *
Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China *
Liebe. Love. Paare, Ulmer Museum, Ulm *
HeartQuake, Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem *
Vertrautes Terrain / Resonanzraum: streng verdaulich, ZKM/ Museum für neue Kunst, Karlsruhe *
Inéditos 2008 / Así se escribe la historia, La Casa Encendida, Madrid *
History will repeat itself, Goethe-Institut/Film Archive/Videotage, Hong Kong *
Gewoon Anders! / Just Different!, Cobra Museum, Amsterdam/Amstelveen *
Bildpolitiken, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg

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Portrait: Berlin, Goethe-Institut, Oscar Schindler's Factory, Krakow and Goethe-Institut Riga
Liebe. Love. Paare, Gustav-Lübcke-Museum, Hamm *
History will repeat itself, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw *
Re-Education - You Too Can Be Like Us!, HAU (Hebbel am Ufer), Berlin
Transmediale.08 - conspire!, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin *

2007

History will repeat itself, Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin *
Kunsthalle Berlin-Lichtenberg, Berlin
Ich war's. In 32 Tagen um den Alexanderplatz. 1805-2007, NGBK / U2 Alexanderplatz, Berlin (solo) *
Liebe. Love - Paare, Museum im Kulturspeicher, Würzburg *
Mondo e Terra, Municipal Gallery of Art of Castel San Pietro, Italy *
Portrait: Berlin, Goethe-Institut, Washington, DC *
History will repeat itself, Hartware MedienKunstVerein at PHOENIX Halle, Dortmund *
Sono stata io / It was me, Galleria Corraini, Mantova (solo) *
Témoins de l'absence, Centre d'art Passerelle, Brest, France
Portrait: Berlin, Old Omaha Association-Moving Gallery, Omaha, Nebraska *
Bodytalk, Fotogalerie Wien, Vienna *
Art for Art's Shake, Palazzo Zambecari, Bologna *
L'immagine infedele. Galleria neon>campobase, Bologna *

2006

Die QueerulantInnen innen/aussen, Auto, Vienna
Zeugen der Abwesenheit, Kunstverein Tiergarten-Galerie Nord, Berlin
Doppia vista mare (mit Frühstück), Laura Mars Grp., Berlin *
Das achte Feld - Geschlechter, Leben und Begehren in der Kunst seit 1960, Museum Ludwig, Cologne *
comanicasino*, C/O careof, Milan (book presentation) *
comanicasino*, //plattform// Berlin (book presentation) *
Un matrimonio felice e altre storie, Officina delle Arti, Musei Civici, Reggio Emilia, Italy (Solo) *

Arte sull'acqua, Videoevent, Mantova, Italy *
Diari, Galleria 1000eventi, Milan
Un matrimonio felice / Eine glückliche Ehe, C/O careof, Milan (Solo)

2005

Orientalismi, Studio la Città, Verona, Italy *
Polished Goldtausch 05, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin *
Permanent zeitgenössisch, Haus Am Waldsee, Berlin *
Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900-1999, //plattform//, Berlin (Solo) *
Arte sull'acqua, Videoevent, Pescherie di Giulio Romano, Mantova, Italy *
EuropaFries, Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin *
A happy Marriage #3, C.A.R.K., Yuwaku sousako no mori, Kanazawa, Japan (Solo)
Rigorosamente bianco e nero, Galleria Studio g7, Bologna

2004

Portraits, Esso Gallery, New York
B2B AND BACK AGAIN, Laura Mars Grp., Berlin

2003

Onufri 2003-Catch me if you can, National Gallery of Arts, Tirana *
Eine glückliche Ehe, Murata & friends, Berlin (Solo)

2002

Daniela Comani, Antje Dorn - Senatsstipendiaten, Kunstbank, Berlin
Entr'acte, Palazzo Albiroli, Bologna *
Comani, Milanesi, Morley, Galleria Comunale d Arte Contemporanea, Sassuolo, Italy

2001

Tranches de vie, Ex-convento di S.Maria, Gonzaga, Italy *
Maebashi Festival of Arts, Center of Art Maebashi, Gunma, Japan *

2000

Double Drawings, Galleria Studio G7, Bologna (Solo) *
Ladies, Murata & friends, Berlin (Solo)

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1999

Más y más-Stadt in den Beinen, La Panadería, Mexico City
Souvenirs 1999, Galleria Studio G7, Bologna (Solo)

1998

Sehen sehen-Berlin 98, Loop, Berlin

1997

[O.m.U.], Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin *
Daniela Comani, Zeichnungen und Fotoarbeiten, Kunstverein
Braunschweig, Germany (Solo) *
Medium of Exchange, CCH, Hamburg
Collezione Permanente, Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea,
Siracusa, Italy

1996

Double Drawings, Galleria Studio G7, Bologna (Solo)
Missing Links, Galerie Fischer, Berlin
Station Deutschland, Kampnagelfabrik, Hamburg *
Lesen, Kunsthalle St.Gallen, CH *

1995

Speculum absconditum, Wiensowski & Harbord, Berlin (Solo) *
Stipendiaten der Karl-Hofer-Gesellschaft, Bahnhof Westend,
Berlin *
Fotografie als Bild, Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany *
Station Deutschland, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin *

1993

Kommunikation vs Entfremdung, Bruno Brunnet Fine Arts, Berlin
(Solo)
Demnächst auf dem freien Markt, Hochschule der Künste, Berlin
What you see sees you, Likör Fabrik, Kunst-Werke, Berlin
(Solo)
More than zero, Magasin, Centre National d'Art Contemporain,
Grenoble, France *

1992

37 Räume, Kunst-Werke, Berlin *
Junge Kunst 1992, Saarland Museum, Saarbrücken, Germany *
Zwischenräume, Gallery Tryekhprudny, Moscow (Solo)

1991

Affascinato dallo sviluppo della tua grandezza, Hochschule
der Künste, Berlin
...in Zusammenarbeit mit Isa Genzken, Hochschule der Künste,
Berlin
Intervall, Technische Universität, Berlin *

1990

Dromomania, Botschaft e.V., Berlin *

* with catalogue

Selected Bibliography

Jillian Steinhauer, The Women of the Miami Project,
Hyperallergic, December 8, 2012
Federico Chiara, About Books: Reloading classics, Vogue,
11/2012, p 70
Sabina Minardi, Cambio di sesso, L'Espresso, Blog, 12
settembre 2012
Paola Naldi, Il mio manifesto - intervista a Daniela Comani,
La Repubblica, 31 luglio 2012
Anna Pataczek, Manipulativ: Daniela Comani in der Galerie
After the Butcher, Der Tagesspiegel, 28. Juli 2012
Michael Granberry, The Dallas Morning News, July 14, 2012
Daniela Comani: New Publication, Magenta Magazine Online,
Summer 2012, Volume 3, No2
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