

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE :

In a single shoe

Opening reception September 12, 6–9pm

Partners & Spade is delighted to present Jessica Sofia Mitrani's "In a Single Shoe."

Mitrani made the first single shoe in 2004: A two-foot-high, black patent-leather platform, it served as a pedestal for the narrator of *Some Historic/Some Hysteria*, a performance piece about the nineteenth-century neurologist Dr. Charcot and his infamous patients at Salpêtrière. The multimedia work, co-authored by Mitrani and produced in New York, re-imagines the lecture-demonstrations that were so popular with Parisian high society. The narrator, although rendered immobile by her footwear, is the only female character capable of speech.

The single shoes created subsequently belong to the realm of the everyday, coupling the fetishistic with the domestic. Each is patterned after a classic style, associated with a particular stereotype of femininity: the white baby shoe; the young girl's Mary Jane; the sensible brown pump; the two-toned Chanel ballet flat; the nurse's shoe; the marabou mule; the stiletto (both black and leopard-print); the Vivienne Westwood leather-strapped platform. The shoes also star in a series of short videos that flesh out the barest of narratives: Mary Jane sways on a swing; Stiletto stands in a cemetery; Nurse is wheeled on a gurney; Pump shops at the supermarket; Vivienne Westwood rides on the back of a motorcycle.

Via their transformation from pair to solitary article, the shoes playfully expose and subvert the subtexts of cliché fashions and the fears and desires they represent: foot binding and s/m bondage, helplessness and dominance, seduction and abuse. In a single shoe, these concepts conjoin—sometimes we fear our own desires.

The exhibition on view at Partners & Spade features the entire series of single shoes; the videos *Mary Jane*, *Stiletto*, and *Nurse*; film stills; and a baby bronze single shoe. During the opening weekend, three nurses will model in the window display.

The exhibition will be open from the 12 of September and the 13 of September from 12-6p.m there will be live girls in the window display.

Partners and Spade is located at 40 Great Jones Street, btw Lafayette and Bowery