

Another side of me.

Oct 2015

A photographic story by Laura Simonsen.

Over the past year I have photographed a small group of drag queens in Hong Kong. I am fascinated by their transformation, their energy, their exaggeration of expression and dramatic change in identity. For a man to dress in women's clothes and wear makeup is a creative outlet of self-expression for performance reasons. It is not always because they want to become a female themselves, as the majority of drag queens are content with being a man. There is a link however, and a mutual sense of support and admiration between the drag queen community and the transgender community. The purpose of this project is to celebrate and bring awareness to both communities. For this exhibition, 'Another side of me', I have concentrated on the story of Simon becoming Cleo. Simon has created over the past 5 years the character and style of a Queen called Cleo. Over the past few months I have spent time with both Simon and Cleo, with and without my camera.

'I fully support the Trans community and I am so delighted that proceeds from this project are being donated to the Transgender Resource Centre. Though, as a drag artist, I do not identify as Trans, I certainly identify with the need to express who I am. The character that I portray as Cleo Moans allows me show another side of me. In drag, we feel a confidence because we are protected by the mask we wear. But for Trans people, they are not portraying a character. They are not performing. Being Trans is real life – it is identity. And I completely admire the courage that it takes for Trans people in Hong Kong, and all around the world, to become who they are meant to be.' – Simon Lawfull

Proceeds and donations will go to the Transgender Resource Center in Hong Kong and help to continue their work in community service, public education and advocacy of transgender rights.

<http://www.tgr.org.hk/tgr.org.hk>



ANOTHER SIDE OF ME.
BY LAURA SIMONSEN

OCT 30TH TO NOV 1ST
FROM 11AM -7PM

OPENING NIGHT
29TH OCTOBER 6-10PM

Voxfire
Gallery

1/F, 52 GAGE ST, CENTRAL, HK
(ENTRANCE IS ON ABERDEEN ST)

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING THE DRAG QUEEN & THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES. PROCEEDS & DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE TGR.

TGR Transgender Resource Center
跨性別資源中心

THANK YOU TO: **Elaine Swanson**
H o n g K o n g

winerack Casa Group
(for the nibbles) 🏠