



Axell-Eration - 1965, oil on canvas, 52,5 x 63,5 cm

After a seven-year career as a television presenter, actress and scriptwriter, Evelyne Axell (1935-1972) embarked on an artistic career in 1964, having been initiated in the art of painting by René Magritte. It would be a short, but extremely intense career. On a technical level, her work evolved from oil on canvas and panel to enamel paint on Clartex, Perspex and Formica; on an iconographical level, she gradually found her way from a strictly feminine world of experience towards highly sensual imagery. Experimentation was the key concept on both levels. Axell wanted to break the mould, and not just in her art-enthralled by the second feminist wave, she openly proclaimed (and practised) the intellectual and sexual liberation of women. Her hedonistic lifestyle, which was abruptly cut short by a car crash in 1972, has up to now resulted in a highly romanticised narrative of her life and work.

(Liesbeth Decan *)

* excerpt from Liesbeth Decan, *Evelyne Axell. From Pop Art to Paradise*, in: Patricia Allmer and Hilde Van Gelder (eds), *The Forgotten Surrealists: Belgian Surrealism Since 1924*, *Image [&] Narrative*, 13 (November 2005); www.imageandnarrative.be/surrealism/decan.htm

Cover: *Fata Banana or Bacchante I* - 1971, enamel on Plexiglass, Unalit, synthetic fur, 205 x 80 cm
Inside: Evelyne Axell at her retrospective exhibition in the Brussels Palais des Beaux-Arts in 1967