



BOOK REVIEW

**YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE AN EMERGENCY**

April 16, 2012 Author: Cig Harvey

Hardback / 144 pages / Schilt Publishing, 2012 / ISBN 9789053307710 / €39.90 /

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You Look at Me Like an Emergency is an autobiographical work of photos and vignettes from Cig Harvey. Exercising a brilliant book form, a fire-engine red cloth cover with clean white lettering, it immediately promises something outspoken and colourful. Intense images intermingled with 17 short works of writing, in a stylized pseudo handwritten form that surrounds and occasionally overlaps the image, the work has the feeling of a romantic picture-book.

What could be considered an homage to pretty dresses, the work includes vividly coloured and gently fantastical imagery, with a distinctly feminine aesthetic. Harvey relies heavily on self-portraiture, but with a clear vision that ensures the story stands superior to self-indulgence. The images also include her family and friends, which show sensitivity without being sentimental. Nearly every image shows a single figure, a curious portrayal of solitude in the midst of a strong sense of relatedness. An intimate diary of love and loss, Harvey's work is a light-hearted work of beauty, an artistic narration of her life.

The book includes 74 square format images taken in the period between 2003 – 2011, and includes an introductory text by Vicki Goldberg and a closing interview with Cig Harvey by Selene Wendt.

You Look at Me Like an Emergency is available for sale by Schilt Publishing. A video trailer of the book is available online.

