'Justine Frank (1900-1943), A Retrospective' by Roece Rosen in Extra City Antwerp

Roece Rosen is an artist, writer, and lecturer, born in Rehovot, Israel in 1963. He now lives in Israel. Recent projects include the installation 'Justine Frank: A Retrospective' (2006), a novel entitled 'Zora' (2007) about an Israeli super-heroine, and a film called 'The Confessions of Roece Rosen' (2006). In the latter, the artist challenges a career with lies, scandals, and fake identities: three surrogates - foreign female workers residing in Israel, deliver his confessions. 'The Confessions of Roece Rosen' was screened at the BFI Festival in 2006. It will also be shown as part of a film programme at the Brussels Film Festival in 2006. Extra City presents the first-ever European retrospective of the work of Jewish Belgian Surrealist Justine Frank; this work has not been exhibited in Belgium since her death in 1943. Frank was born in Antwerp, lived in Paris and died in Tel Aviv. Recent exhibitions concerning her life, her work and her aesthetics continue to yield contradictory responses and create controversy. Frank was active during several crucial junctures of Twentieth Century culture, yet in each of those junctures she seems to have generated anti-Semites and confusion in those around her. Frank was a Surrealist during the movement's most radical phase, yet even within that ambivalent circle they had a problem stemming from Frank's artistic conception of the erotic image and Jewish iconography. Furthermore, Frank highlighted her Jewish identity as the time of European Jewry's worst nightmare and near-annihilation; in her depiction of Judaism she intentionally employed imagery called from the entire genealogy of Western Anti-Semitism: she defied Zionism, yet assimilated to Tel Aviv.