



STILL LIFE

Film director Lynne Ramsay invited the photographer Gautier Deblonde on to the set of *Morvern Callar*

'Before I was a filmmaker I used to be a stills photographer for other filmmakers, a job where you never really get to pursue your own vision. Gautier initially approached me simply to take a portrait, and our relationship developed from there. He offered to photograph my whole shoot and I thought I'd get something interesting. I told Gautier to do whatever he wanted, not to take his point of view from us.

'It was a tough job for Gautier. Samantha Morton, who plays Morvern, isn't someone who loves having her photograph taken. She works in the moving image, but he managed to find something with her. I left him to his own devices, and got on with the filmmaking. I didn't want publicity stills; I was more interested in what he made of the whole process, in how he might document his own journey through the making of the film. The process is sometimes more interesting than the end result.

'*Morvern Callar*, the film, is, I think, unconventional but compelling, like a psychological road trip. The title character is an antihero. She's a cowboy. You can never get to the bottom of her, but she is nonetheless intriguing. I've made the setting a "Nowheresville", in a generic time, but it was shot in a dark Scotland, mainly at night. I was very conscious of that, but Gautier brought a kind of eyesight for the things outside the frame that we never used in the film, this other world. Details. We have different ways of looking at things. He's a much subtler photographer than I am – there's something gentle about his insights that I didn't expect.' **T**

Morvern Callar is on general release. Gautier Deblonde's book of photographs from *Morvern Callar* is published on 6 November by ScreenPress at £16.99. His photographs will be on exhibition at the Tom Blau Gallery, London, from 6 to 24 November.

Samantha Morton in preparation for the opening scene of *Morvern Callar*, 2002. Photograph by **Gautier Deblonde**.