

Betreff: PHOTO FEMMES - press release

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PRESS RELEASE

PHOTO FEMMES

Heather Bennett
Laura London
Francie Bishop Good
Fay Ray
Julee Holcombe
Carly Steward

November 30, 2006 – January 6, 2007
Reception: Thursday, November 30, 6 – 8 PM
(Gallery closed December 23 thru January 1)

Caren Golden Fine Art is pleased to present PHOTO FEMMES, an exhibition of photo-based works by six woman artists. Whether using the photographic medium to investigate the real or to create the imaginary, they reside in an era of mass communication which forms a common cultural prism through which their art is viewed.



Heather Bennett is both the subject and documenter of her fictions. She parodies classic feminist parables and deconstructs the portrait of woman in contemporary visual culture. In her most recent body of work, her highly stylized images present iconic characters of female oppression rendered with the stylized veneer of fashion. Her imagery juxtapose the subservience of her self-portraits to her position as the author and director of the image.

Heather Bennett, Trash, 2005



Francie Bishop Good has documented her niece, Carly, for more than nine years. Her ongoing project is a prolonged meditation on the relationship between a young girl and our culture at large. Frequently a looming, out-of-focus figure on the periphery of an unsettling mise en scène, Carly is the surrogate for the artist, the viewer, the universal social consciousness -- a girl/woman forming her sense of identity in a chaotic world.

Francie Bishop Good, Carly NY Kapoor & Man, 2006



Laura London's seemingly spontaneous images are in fact the result of her careful orchestration of the setting, costumes, lighting and stage direction of her photographs. In her newest series titled "Portraits on Location: Young Hopefuls," London has imbued the optimism of youth with suggestions of possible failure and disillusionment. The cultural signifiers of each chosen location alter the otherwise positive image of youth's limitless potential.

Laura London, Portraits on Location: Young Hopefuls, Home of the Free, 2006



Using hundreds of digital photographs to form her montage, Julee Holcombe's seamless images emulate Renaissance paintings while commenting on contemporary issues of identity. She instills psychic tension in each of her works by embedding her temporal subjects within timeless cultural frameworks. In *Self as Narcissus* she is both the author and a double subject of the photograph, confounding the viewer with a multitude of identities within a single image.

Julee Holcombe, *Self as Narcissus*, 2005



Fay Ray co-opts photographic images from magazines to explore the commodification of the female body. By coupling the mechanical and the corporal, she transforms the figure and the object to create images that transcend either category. Aply named "Thing Inside Myself," her series of collages illustrates how much we are a co-mingling of the interior and the exterior, the physical and the material, the spirit and the tangible.

Fay Ray, *New Flesh:12*, 2006



Carly Steward's photographs are a coda to the work in the PHOTO FEMMES exhibition. As the other artworks are filled with figurative images, self-portraiture and implied narratives, Steward's work documents museum installations after the exhibition has been dismantled and the artifacts removed. Attention is drawn to the artifact absent from its intended context and leads us to question what in fact is the subject matter that we are viewing — the empty space the display as an architectural structure or the photograph itself as discrete object.

Carly Steward, Inside Out, 2006

To view selected works from the PHOTO FEMMES exhibition, go to www.carengolden.com and click on selected works.

For further information please contact Blaize Lehane at 212.727.8304 or blaize@carengolden.com
