

NYPR Archives - 2010

THE NEW YORK PHOTO REVIEW



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The Top Ten  
Shows  
selected by our  
readers



## 31 Women in Art Photography

**Chandra Glick**



*Ann Woo, Cave, 2007*

If you want to see what is going on in art photography now (as opposed to photojournalism, fashion or editorial work) *31 Women in Art Photography* at Affirmation Arts might be one of the best chances you'll get. The young curator, Jon Feinstein, has taken his Humble Arts Foundation endeavors to a new level. This time he has teamed up with Charlotte Cotton and results are striking.

A beautiful horizon line of images traces the perimeter of the gallery's large open space. No lengthy wall chats or biographies interrupt the clean presentation. Each artist is represented by a singular work, yet together their photographs form an impressive chorus. On an aesthetic level, the color between adjacent photographs harmonizes a variety of agendas and approaches. An image of a female soldier with a warm ochre background by Claire Beckett is in dialogue with a rich green landscape by Rachel Sussman. A group portrait in a bizarre purple frame feels right at home next to Anna Krachey's candy hued cupcake wrapper.

Conceptually, a sense of confidence and intentionality unify this group of photographs. Personal narratives, political issues, art historical references and even abstraction hold the wall in ways that far exceed their direct compositions or uniformly exquisite printing. Each artist speaks with a clarity that Carol Gilligan might have praised in her 1970s feminist book, *In a Different Voice*. The visual and theoretical refinement conveys each woman's investment in articulating her position. Nothing feels accidental or unplanned in the final result even when the subject exists in a destroyed form as it does in Heather Rasmussen's work.

If I have any criticism of the show, it is the way it tip-toes around feminism in its self-description. The f-word label has many

*31 Women in Art  
Photography*

Affirmation Arts  
523 W 37th St.  
Chelsea [Map](#)

212 925 0092  
[affirmationarts.com](http://affirmationarts.com)

Saturday, March 6 to  
Monday, May 10, 2010  
Hours: Tue-Fri, 10 to 6,  
Sat 11 to 5

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## More Articles by Chandra Glick.

**MARK WYSE** "Seizure" at  
Wallspace

"31 Women in Art  
Photography" at Affirmation  
Arts

**CATHERINE OPIE** "Girlfriends"  
at Gladstone Gallery (24th  
St.)

connotations, but to produce a show delimited by gender inherently takes on feminism in its multiplicity of forms. I hoped to see and hear from *31 Women* what the members of a new generation have to say about their roles as female artists in contemporary society. Instead the press release tentatively reads, "...gender, in this context, is often obscured or absent entirely." I disagree. Instead, the show's celebration of the female voice leaves a certain explicit boldness to be desired. What is absent is standing that ground. The show closes soon, so I recommend seeing for yourself.

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