



Lamont Gallery Exhibition Archive

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CYBÈLE MENDES / CALEB COLE / LAUREN KALMAN / TARA MISENHEIMER



SELF MADE

SEPTEMBER 8-OCTOBER 18, 2014

RECEPTION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 5-7 PM

GALLERY TALK: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 10 AM

 Lamont Gallery Phillips Exeter Academy

Self Made

September 8-October 18, 2014

Have you ever wanted to spend the day as someone else? Artists in ***Self Made*** explore issues of identity and representation, and raise questions about the notion of one stable “self.”

Printmaker and painter **Tara Misenheimer** draws inspiration from historic beauty advertisements to honor and critique the feminine ideal. Misenheimer's source materials include 1960's and 1970's editions of *Seventeen* and *Vogue* magazine in addition to hair styling manuals from those eras. According to Misenheimer, her work “... is influenced by the media, pop icons, teen culture, graphic design and advertising trends.” Her work also looks “... to make connections between familiar and fundamental properties of hairstyles and sensationalized commercial objects of the era such as cars, diamonds, swimwear and fashionable trends.” Misenheimer is a member of the Art Department at Phillips Exeter Academy and is the Clowes Chair in Art. She received her BFA from the University of New Hampshire and her MAT/MFA from Tufts University/Museum School.



Tara Misenheimer, *Six Petals*, Based on Sergio Valente's *farfalle 6 petali*



Cybèle Mendes, *All Due Respect*

Cybèle Mendes' slight alterations in persona in her self-portrait series address the complexities of identity framed by race, gender, and family history. With these self-portraits, Mendes explains that she is "...interested in how an audience responds to certain visual cues (based on their own ethnicity and or baggage) in relationship to viewing the same figure bearing light skin or dark skin." In her work, the visual cues that she incorporates may be simple props or subtle compositions which invite the viewer to explore the various themes of identity she presents. Mendes lives and works in Wilmington, Delaware. She received her BFA from Cornell University, and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Lauren Kalman, trained as a jeweler, considers the prosthetic possibilities of gold as a self-enhancement strategy. Kalman works in a variety of materials including sculpture, photography, video, and craft objects. According to Kalman, her work "investigates beauty, adornment, body image, value, and consumer culture." Kalman, who is from Detroit, Michigan, received her BFA from Massachusetts College of Art with a focus in metals and earned her MFA in Art and Technology from Ohio State University. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is featured in exhibitions such as the Smithsonian Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the deCordova Museum.



Lauren Kalman, *But if the Crime is Beautiful... Hood (4)*

Caleb Cole wears other people’s clothes—literally—to suggest that the story we tell about ourselves might shift in profound (and sometimes humorous) ways when we change outfits. In speaking the “Other People’s Clothes” series, Cole states “When I am in public, I watch people going about their daily routines alone; I wonder about the lives they lead, wonder how they experience the world around them and how they make meaning of it.”

To create each of his scenes, Cole starts by first selecting an outfit and then inventing a character to fit the clothes. Although Cole uses himself in these photographs, they are not self-portraits, but instead they are “...portraits of people I have never met but with whom I feel familiar...” Cole currently lives in Medford, Massachusetts. He received a BA in Sociology and Gender Studies from Indiana University and earned his MA at the New England School of Photography.



Caleb Cole, *Birthday Girl*

Related Links

Tara Misenheimer
Cybèle Mendes
Lauren Kalman
Caleb Cole
[Review of Self Made in the Union Leader](#)
[Photos of Exhibit and Events on Flickr](#)