

HYPERALLERGIC

ART

Capturing Fragments of Identity

A group show at Westbeth Gallery examines how identities are formed, transmuted, distorted, and displayed in the social sphere.



Michael Valinsky | August 4, 2017



Aneta Bartos, "Dangle" (2016), C-print, 20.40 x 20 in (image courtesy the artist)

Since 1970, Westbeth has been home to hundreds of artists working in performance, dance, painting, photography, writing, and more. As one of the first examples of industrial buildings being adapted for artistic and residential reuse in the US, Westbeth has helped shape the West Village's reputation as an artistic haven. It's fitting, then, that curators Eric Lawton and Daphne Takahashi would bring to Westbeth Gallery *Discursive Selves*, a group show of photography and video art that examines how identities are formed, transmuted, distorted, and displayed in the social sphere.

Photographer [Aneta Bartos](#) also navigates an intimate social space: that of her family in rural Poland. For her *Family Portraits* series, the artist poses with her father, a bodybuilder, to create a collection of unsettling images. Her father is often found in a side-chest pose, while Bartos hovers in the background, close enough to be shielded by his presence, but distanced enough to introduce a tension in their relationship. For her, the fragmented nature of self-portraiture exists in the cracks of her own memory and resurfaces within the frames of her photographs.

Discursive Selves continues at Westbeth Gallery (55 Bethune Street, West Village, Manhattan) through August 11.