

ART

A FEMALE PHEROMONE HOTBOX

By RACHEL SMALL
Photography KATE OWEN



Aneta Bartos

Opening tonight at Steven Kasher Gallery, "Pheromone Hotbox" presents the work of five young female photographers whose practices revolve around depicting other women: Aneta Bartos, Amanda Charchian, Shae DeTar, Olivia Locher, and Marianna Rothen. Discovered over the last year and a half by Kasher and his partner Andi Potamkin, with whom he runs the gallery's smaller offshoot Kasher|Potamkin, the artists embody an invigorating post-*Girls* feminist attitude toward women creating art about women. Images are electric in the way that they channel the complicated and arousing current between women who are physically and emotionally close.

"In this new generation of images, the women are victorious...They celebrate the body and sexuality as if the devouring male gaze is not problematic," Kasher continues. "I cannot think of more timely works than these, as they take the narcissistic, porn-pervaded, image-overloaded culture of our time and make of it something beautiful, liberating, and even empowering."

ANETA BARTOS

AGE: This question is great if you are under 25 or, like, 90.

BASED: New York for 16 years by way of Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Poland

FIRST CAMERA: Russian camera, Zenit. I bought it.

DREAM SHOOT: Aliens from different planets

CRAZIEST SHOOT: Years ago I was shooting an editorial in Everglades, Florida. I went into the swamp filled with alligators to get the shot. My team was watching from afar in disbelief and the model was clueless—I think it was her second day in the States and she didn't speak any English. Two years later I read that couple of women were eaten alive by the alligators in that area.

THE IMPOSSIBLE IMAGE: I wish I could go back in time about a decade or so to start shooting my dad for my new project, which I began a year and a half ago, called 'My Dad the Bodybuilder.'

WHAT'S NEXT: I'll be shooting my Spider Monkeys as soon as it gets warmer—this time water will be my main location. Then [I am] flying to Poland to continue photographing my dad.

IN FIVE YEARS: I don't think that far ahead. I live day to day.