

AUG
2**SHOW ALERT:****31 WOMEN IN ART PHOTOGRAPHY**

Chelsea, NYC

Last Thursday I headed out to Chelsea to attend the opening reception of “31 Women in Art Photography” at [Hasted-Kraeutler](#). The show, co-curated by Natalia Sacasa and Jon Feinstein, contained one photo from each woman photographer. Started in 2008, 31 Women has evolved to become a “celebration of female art,” according to Feinstein. He is a bespectacled man with curly hair, dressed like an English professor. “In the art photography world,” he explained, “there is a huge discrepancy between the overwhelming number of women who obtain MFA’s and the smaller ratio of women who are represented professionally.” The beautiful range of pieces from this show were testament to the power of women to break into a male-dominated world.



Her photo from the exhibit was a dark, painterly portrait of a young woman, with a soft expression on her face, wet lips slightly parted. The image is a Polaroid, from film discontinued in 2008. “I shot my first 4’x5’ Polaroid film in late 2006 and instantly fell in love,” said Bartos via email. “I felt the dreamy and unpredictable quality of the Polaroid fit the quality of the world I was trying to create, a ... perfect mixture of beauty, eros and fear.” It looked oddly incongruous to have such an intimate portrait in a public place, strangers chatting and her image in the background.

Although Feinstein and Sacasa assert that there was no single theme, I noticed a nod, subconscious or not, in all these pieces to the public and private worlds – a divide traditionally associated with the hierarchy of man over woman. I’m looking forward to future exhibits of 31 Women, and to seeing how the tension around this divide evolves.