



Droste Effect

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by Catherine Nueva
España
in News
Jul 15, 2014

Christine Elfman at Gallery Wendi Norris

Christine Elfman is a practitioner and teacher of photography, and her technical rigor is evident: images and diptychs convey both the essential and the ephemeral. In *Looking Back*, the play of light/shadow, background/foreground, and immediacy/mystery converge into a harmonious, if unsettling, whole. Paired with an anothotype of a Grecian head, the piece is both portrait and diptych: the missing body of one and the partially covered face of the other encourages us to construct a memory or a narrative. The *Love Letters* diptych is similarly arresting in its austerity and open-endedness: do the unanswered letters represent the finite or infinite? As with *Looking Back*, and the other well-crafted pieces, an element of passing or lost time fills gaps but also leaves questions unanswered.

Fix & Fade feels timely: a respite from contemporary life and its virtual realities and surfeit of information. It is a show that invites contemplation, stimulates your sense of humor, and asks to be considered. The anothotypes and silver gelatin prints, presented individually and in diptychs, convey serenity, elegance, and a certain aesthetic and material solidity – more fixed than faded, though she plays with decomposition and impermanence.

Christine Elfman, *Fix & Fade*, [Gallery Wendi Norris](#), San Francisco, through 2 August 2014.

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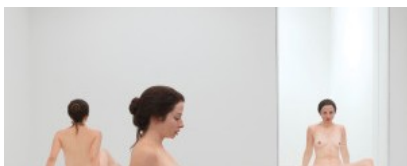


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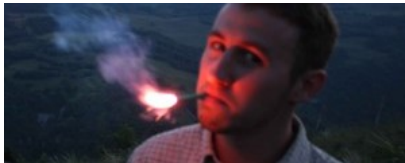
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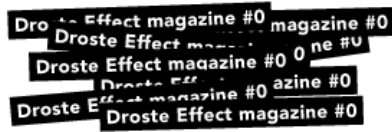
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Christine Elfman, Death Valley (Clamp: silver gelatin print, Salt: silver gelatin print), Fix & Fade, Gallery Wendi Norris, Francisco



Christine Elfman, Looking Back (Veil: anotype, Looking: silver gelatin print), Fix & Fade, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco



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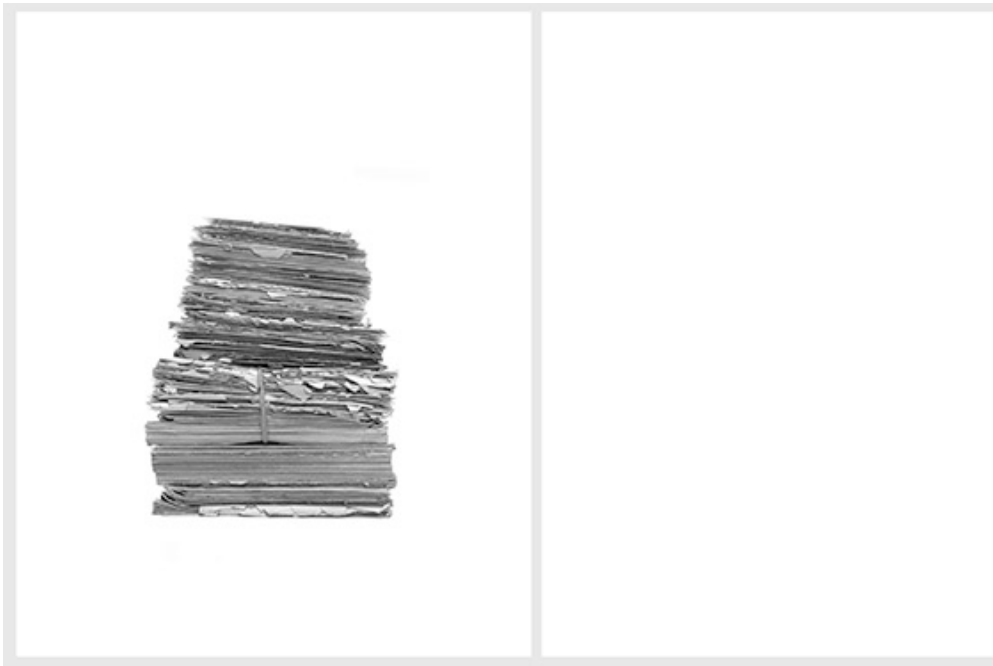
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Christine Elfman, Love Letters (All the letters she wrote to him: silver gelatin print; All the letters he wrote to her: silk print), Fix & Fade, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco

Tag: photography
Artist: Christine Elfman
City: San Francisco
Venue: Gallery Wendi Norris
Curator: Wendi Norris



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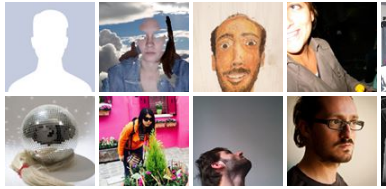
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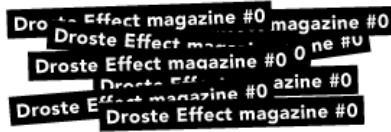
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