

Goings on About Town: "Secession Secession", The New Yorker, June 13, 2013

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

“SECESSION SECESSION”

For a show about artifice and staging in photography, the artist and curator Colby Bird makes some unlikely and provocative connections. He juxtaposes William Mortensen’s Deco-decadent vamps from 1935 and Roger Ballen’s recent, vaguely alarming arrangements of people, animals, and abject objects in otherwise empty rooms; Claude Cahun’s pampered kitty (1940) and Deana Lawson’s contorted stripper (2010). Leaning alongside these framed images, on a narrow shelf that snakes through the gallery, is equally eccentric, utterly various work by Kyle Knodell, Nancy de Holl, Winona Barton-Ballentine, and other mostly new artists who also treat the photograph as a platform for sculpture, performance, and fantasy. Through June 30.

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