

Susan Eley
Fine Art
CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
NOVEMBER 7, 2011

WINSOME/AWESOME

Black and White Photographs by
Heather Boose Weiss & Danelle Manthey

Opening Reception: Thursday, November 17, 6-8pm

Exhibition Dates: November 17-December 30, 2011

We are pleased to announce a two-person exhibition of photographs by Heather Boose Weiss and Danelle Manthey. **Gallery One** features a dozen silver gelatin prints of landscapes by Boose Weiss. In **Gallery Two** we present ten ink jet portraits of individuals in color and black and white by Manthey. This is SEFA's third major exhibition of Boose Weiss's photographs, following *Shaping Space* (2007) and *Passages in Black and White* (2009). **WINSOME/AWESOME** is Manthey's first exhibition with SEFA.



Heather Boose Weiss, *Moon Beam*



Danelle Manthey, *Baker*

“Throughout the scope of my work, I try to visually express what it means to be an individual. This experience is vastly different for each of us and there are so many small instances that make up our lives. How we deal with these experiences defines us.”

DANELLE MANTHEY

Born and raised in South Dakota, **DANELLE MANTHEY** is a newcomer to SEFA. Manthey started this portrait series in 2009, shooting in her apartment in Brooklyn, and completed the project during a residency at the NY based chashama in 2010. Manthey works closely with each sitter to create a personal setting with props and costume, allowing each subject to tell his or her own vignette. The artist draws inspiration from circus portraits and vintage photographs, combining qualities of both to create a portrait for the 21st century. This is the first public exhibition of this work.

People acting out their unique dramas include: “Fencer,” in white, with a foil propped against her shoulder; the “Baker,” caked in flour and presenting a rolling pin like a weapon; a huckster with slicked back hair and a pencil thin mustache; and a smirking, sexy “Carney” with a hand on a carnival wheel of fortune, and the other on a jutting hip.

Some subjects are whimsical, like “Drifter,” showing a boy playing a tiny guitar, with knee socks and romper as white as his tow head. Others are more enigmatic, such as “Postpartum”, a new mom in bathing suit and hair curlers, gazing downwards, as a basket of baby dolls sits next to her on the floor.

We think we know these characters with one glance, that each is somehow defined by the activity they represent. We all engage in activities and pastimes to both differentiate ourselves from one another, but also to connect to a community. In the end, Manthey’s stunning, soulful portraits sometimes depict humor and irony, and always, a deep longing.

Danelle Manthey has a BFA in photography, Columbia College, Chicago. She has exhibited at Jenkins Johnson, Ceres Gallery, NY, Silvermine Guild Arts Center, CT, and participated in an Open Portfolio at the Chelsea Art Museum, NY, among other shows. This past fall, she participated in the Governor’s Island Art Fair, NY.

“I have a great deal of love for nature and I like to think that co-creating with nature is a good way to go about exploring the world and my presence in it. Even though my performance in front of the camera is usually a living, moving dance, I love how the photograph holds still.”

HEATHER BOOSE WEISS

HEATHER BOOSE WEISS’s photographs chosen for *Winsome/Awesome* were taken during the past three years in Europe, the Caribbean and the US. The selection includes views of rushing waterfalls, dramatic nighttime ocean settings, grand rock faces, a cross section of a rock crevice, and startlingly beautiful close-ups of mushrooms, snapped lovingly at ground level. Using the traditional medium of silver gelatin to its fullest potential, Boose Weiss offers us painterly hues—from the deepest midnight black, pierced with starlight, to a snowy white landscape in Norway—and infinite tones of grays in between.

Beyond Boose Weiss’s adoration of nature, her photographs also reflect a desire to find a way in to these chosen, mystical landscapes. What happens in a natural setting when a human, usually the artist herself, enters the scene? How does her presence alter the place? Boose Weiss’s form is barely perceptible, as if she were drawing herself into the photograph with light.

Each photograph reflects a different quality of energy. Our movements upon the earth leave a trace, as in “Polar Wander.” Sometimes, we sense movement, but don’t see it, as in the dynamic pull of the moonlight in “Moon Beam”. Poetry is evoked in the silent, still moments the artist captures. Details are sharp and crisp. We want to lean into the photograph and bask in the moon light, feel the sand pour through our fingers or breathe in a rising mist.

Heather Boose Weiss was born in Florida and raised in Connecticut. She has a BFA in photography from the School of Visual Arts, NY. Her work has been exhibited at the Gray and Gove Gallery, NY and at the Photography Festival in Pingyao, China, among others venues. Boose Weiss currently lives and works in Los Angeles.