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GROUP EXHIBITION CONSIDERING ISSUES OF FEMININITY ON VIEW AT THE NEW MUSEUM

"Girls Night Out (Femininity as Masquerade)," an exhibition that considers issues of feminine identity, will be on view September 16 through November 20, 1988 at The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York.

The exhibition brings together sculpture, photographs, paintings and multi-media pieces that deal with the idea of womanliness in terms of its accoutrements and trappings. Meg Cranston, Marilyn Minter, Rona Pondick, Tina Potter, Aimee Rankin, Alison Saar and Susan Silas offer works that confront the compelling, as well as the repugnant and prosaic traits associated with the gender, reflecting an attitude of considered ambivalence toward the topic of femininity.

Marilyn Minter's pink-and-blue gender-coded paintings, for example, comment on the either/or status of sexual identity, while Alison Saar's vibrant figures treat identity as a fluid cultural hybrid. In Rona Pondick's sculpture, the allure of oversized satin pillows is sullied by the dense weight of lead. Sifting through literary and art history, Susan Silas raises questions about the fictional status of femininity. Tina Potter offers stark and startling glimpses of tragic histories hidden on the jewel-like surface of her canvases. Meg Cranston's multi-media compositions call attention to gender-identified notions embedded in everyday objects. Rounding out the exhibition, Aimee Rankin's signature diorama/peepshow boxes elaborate on the mythic entanglements of the female gender.

GROUP EXHIBITION AT NEW MUSEUM

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"Girls Night Out (Femininity as Masquerade)" is part of The New Museum's ON VIEW program, which is made possible, in part, through a generous grant from the Jerome Foundation and by gifts to the Arthur Sahn Memorial Fund.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday: noon to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.

Recorded information about exhibitions and programs at The New Museum can be obtained by calling 212/219-1355.