

Francine Spiegel is an LA-based artist whose works include photcollage, video, mixed media assemblages and freeform installations. All of her work is derived from samplings of funky feminine cyber-subcultures, techno debris from her studio floor and other random raw materials.



Spiegel's loose, sprawling technique captures the Dionysian abandon of the fantasies on display, which are woven into shiny, brash webs with fetishistic textures. The pieces are rumpled and limp like debauched frocks or skins shed from identity crises, but the nonjudgmental viewpoint and equality given to all, from neo-hippie chick to chocolate bather, shape a twenty-first century vision of gathering and community.



Detail from the work " **Baby Pelt** " 2005

This picture is taken at Skestos Gabriele Gallery's show "Family First?" in Chicago. The most startling and demanding work in the show was that of Francine Spiegel. In a gallery adjacent to the main space, Spiegel's "pelts" are disturbing assemblages of found images from the Internet, Scratch-n-Sniff stickers of cartoons, unsettling Polaroid photographs of nude women, and goopy paint reminiscent of bodily fluids. Her "pelts" each serve as a complex yet flattened biographical interplay of paradoxical female identities; the naïve becomes sexualized, and the sexualized becomes naïve. The contradictory meanings imbued by these images sit uneasily against one another, betraying a sticky sordid truth about women's perception of themselves. A pelt is something you carry around with you, and this is exactly what Spiegel wants you to acknowledge. She is digging out the dusty corners of your memory; these are images you had forgotten or images you wished you'd never seen. The shiny remnants of girlhood are the miscellany you would expect to find in an old box of cheap items you once treasured. In small doses, Mylar balloons, laminated stickers and washed-out photographs of childbirth and sex are all put on the same level in Spiegel's work. These brightly colored assemblages are at once attractive and repellent, which is, interestingly enough, a treatment that women represented in art have received for quite some time.

FRANCINE SPIEGEL

Biography

- 1975 Born Miami Beach, FL
1997 Rhode Island School of Design, BFA

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2005 "Congratulations!," Silo Gallery, New York, NY
2003 "Francine Spiegel and Megan Whitmarsh," Millicent Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2006 "Family First?" Skestos Gabriele Gallery, Chicago, IL, Group exhibition curated by Jennifer Jankauskas
2005 "Day of the Dead with Black Sabbath," Monkey Town, Brooklyn, NY
"The Zine UnBound: Kults, Werewolves and Sarcastic Hippies," Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
"With Us Against Reality, or Against Us!" Willy Wonka Inc., Oslo and Galleri S.E., Bergen, Norway
"Tedious Limbs," Deitch Projects, New York, NY
"April Fools Only- Loop Pool," Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY
2004 "The Four-Color Pen Show" Locust Projects, Miami, FL, in association with General Store, Milwaukee, WI
"Button-O-Matic Series 5: Scary or Hairy," Chicago, IL
"Reas Presents," 3more Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
"Black Sabbath+Animation," Gavin Brown's Passerby, New York, NY
"Tedious Limbs," The Flynn Farm, Los Angeles, CA
2003 "17e Rencontres Vidéo Art Plastique," Centre d'Art Contemporain de Basse-Normandie, France
Super Assembly, Brooklyn, NY

Bibliography

- "Balloon Animal" *Interview, / Magazine*, Issue 04, pgs. 90, 91, 2005
"Goopy Wall Art" by Choire Sicha, *New York Times*, Arts & Leisure, March 6, 2005
"Reas Presents: Francine Spiegel," *Mass Appeal magazine*, Issue 26, pgs. 88, 89, April, 2004
"Heraldic Pomp at Brooklyn Fireproof," *Repellent*, No.3:, pg. 156, 2004
Curvy Book in association with *Yen Magazine*, Yen Media International Pty. Ltd. Sydney, Australia, pgs. 64, 65, 2004
"Family, Friends, Other Intimates," review by David Pagel, *Los Angeles Times*, Calendar, E 19, August 29, 2003
"Brain Candy," review by Chris Kensler, *Artbyte magazine*, p. 69, July-August, 2001
"Francine Spiegel - Brooklyn Artist," *Vice magazine*, vol. 8 no. 6, pgs. 28, 29, June, 2001