

Body image theme at Soho gallery show

Alison Martin

The Ronald Feldman Fine Arts Gallery in Soho is currently presenting a group exhibition titled ***Have We Met Before?*** The show offers work by 14 artists of different generations whose pieces range from sculptures, videos, photography, paintings, and other mixed media. Each artist attempts to explore and bridge together a connection of the human body and soul within his or her work.

For example, one poignant work in the show is Eleanor Antin's series of black and white photographs of herself taken in 1972 over a period of 37 days titled *Carving: A Traditional Sculpture*. The photographs portray Antin posing nude while on a restrictive diet as a way to demonstrate pressures of society to meet specific standards of beauty.

Another extremely bold and daring piece in the show is Yishay Garbasz's installation called *Eat Me Damien*. Garbasz is a transgendered artist, a male turned female, and for *Eat Me Damien*, Garbasz displays her old testicles removed during surgery protected in formaldehyde material.

Visual artist Rona Yefman contributes a series of photos and videos titled *Marth A Bouke* set in Tel Aviv, Israel. *Marth A Bouke* tells the story of an elderly holocaust survivor and grandfather known as "Martha Bouke" who has adopted a mental and physical female persona. He/she is dressed in a plastic mask and blonde wig challenging traditional notions of sexuality, age expectations, and gender norms.

Rona Yefman's second contribution to the show is a series of photographs and videos titled *My Brother and I* shot between the years 1996 and 2009 that highlights her deep and complex relationship with her younger brother Gil whose sexuality shifts from masculine to feminine and back to masculine.

Gil Yefman is also an artist and a few of his installations are featured in this exhibition. One of the installations known as *Blood Moon* features a giant ball suspended from the ceiling composed of red yarn emitting giant drops of red yarn. With *Blood Moon*, Yefman attempts to illustrate the nature of female menstruation and birthing in relation to possibilities of a male menstruation and birthing.

At [The Ronald Feldman Fine Arts Gallery](#) (31 Mercer St.) through April 25. The gallery is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Monday by appointment



"Marth a Bouke" by Rona Yefman
Photo Credit: Ronald Feldman Fine Art Gallery



"Blood Moon" by Gil Yefman
Photo Credit: Ronald Feldman Fine Art Gallery