EXHIBITIONS

RAWREVIEWS

WOW

WOW: Wild Old Women, Novas Gallery, London, www.wildoldwomen.info

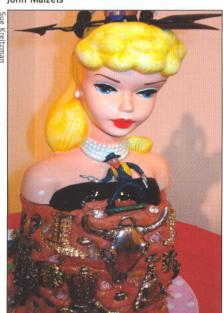
November 14 2008 - January 3 2009.

This stunning show, curated by one of its exhibitors, Sue Kreitzman, certainly lived up to its title. The large two floor gallery was absolutely buzzing with colour and excitement as the works of fourteen female self-taught artists, mainly from the Greater London area proved to be overwhelming.

A specially made cake of a naked woman by Sue Adden was enthusiastically devoured at the opening but the remainder of her works were luckily on display throughout the exhibition. It was a treat to see the characteristically strong drawings by the well known Australian Outsider Liz Parkinson on show in London. Kate Bradbury's section was split between her impressive complex and detailed pen drawings, combining elements of ornamentation, abstraction and representation and her sculptures of standing figures made from found materials, their torsos of old suitcases open to reveal their insides. Judith McNichol also exhibited large involved ink drawings alongside her 3D creations of birds of all sizes constructed out of found objects, many of them inhabiting a large doll's house type structure with rooms full of birds and minute pictures on the walls.

Curator Sue Kreitzman's own work is a combination of bright paintings and over-the-top kitsch assemblages crammed with a myriad of components, while the hanging canvases of Yvonne Mabs-Francis were genuinely visionary in their subject matter and approach. Unfortunately it is not possible to discuss all the artists in this group show in a short review but they each contributed to making an exceptional exhibition, one that London sees only rarely and Ms Kreitzman is to be congratulated for bringing such a strong group together.

John Maizels

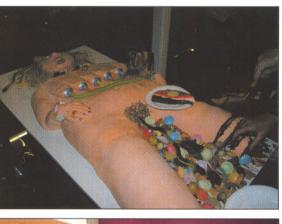
















Shanley (left) Kari

ie Adden (left)