

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR WOMEN

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The risks of being an older woman artist and depicting women who are not objects of desire according to standards of popular culture, challenges art historians. Joan Semmel takes the mandate of realist painting—the pursuit of truth—seriously and demonstrates that painting can be an act of bravery. "An Other View," an exhibition of over 20 of Semmel's new paintings, presents an unflinching look at women in the process of aging. In the "Locker Room" series, she uses her subject matter—the mundane settings of work-out classes and changing rooms—to explore the physical reality of aging. In her latest work, "Over-Lays," she uses the paint itself—re-working and altering original paintings from the 1970s—to evoke the fears, self-doubts, and greater insights of a mature artist. It is difficult to believe that an artist would, in effect, destroy her earlier work to present a more mature perspective. But, no artist has created a more convincing way to convey the changes brought by time. For information contact Barbara Pollack, 32 Morton St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-4287.

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