

The Body Altered

Jim Bloom, Candyce Brokaw, Rondi Casey, R.L. Corey,
Andrea Cote, Tara Cioletti, Sofia Lee Moran,
Lynn Schirmer, Christopher Schneberger, Bastienne Schmidt,
Matt Sesow, Alison Silva, Elizabeth Silver,
Claire Watson, Ronnie Wiener

March 6 – April 18, 2010

Reception: *Saturday, March 6, 4-6:00 PM*

Panel Discussion: March 20, 2 PM organized by the North Fork Arts Project

Poetry Reading: March 27, 5 PM organized by the North Sea Poetry Scene

at

art sites

651 West Main Street (Route 25), Riverhead, New York 11901 T: 631- 591-2401
<http://www.artsitesgallery.com>

Gallery Hours: Thursday –Sunday, 12-5 PM.
For group tour information and additional hours call 631-591-2401

The body is primal. Since the beginning of time, its form evokes Ideals of beauty, fertility, and creation. Identity and well-being are linked to body condition. Disease, genetic control, mishap, atrocities and age all impact the body. Even natural processes, such as pregnancy, can prove temporarily strange with both positive and negative outcomes. People's energy and self-image evolve around approaches to body health and fitness. Social acceptance and isolation can be direct reflections of body condition. The body is the ultimate canvas.

Jim Bloom's works scream with the emotional pain caused when failing a perfectionist vision. He captures the drama behind everyday episodes, including addictions to overeating, drugs and nicotine or the need to dye one's hair. *Candyce Brokaw's* focus for this show challenges a medical world advocating breast implants, with its conflicting desires and solutions. *Rondi Casey's* marionette sculptures deal with the impacts of racial color, as well as self-inflicted "improvements." *Andrea Cote* and *Bastienne Schmidt* express the surreal beauty, unease, and isolation that childbirth and rearing can

cause, while *Elizabeth Silver* evokes the female power of creation. *Tara Cioletti's* photographs capture the sculpted impacts of emotion on her body. *Sofia Lee Moran's* photographs of drag queens are both poignant and beguiling. *Christopher Schneberger's* photographs illustrate his biography of a young amputee levitating through an idealized Victorian childhood. *Matt Sesow's* works focus on the emotional side of physical disability, originating with amputation. *Lynn Schirmer's* drawings depict the process of disassociation, an adaptive response to extreme experiences. *Alison Silva's* intricate, mythic images gather references from other cultures, including the practice of marking the body. *Claire Watson's* mysterious small sculptures transform familiar objects while referencing the symbolic value of hair. *Ronnie Wiener's* collage of magnifying lenses brings attention to the obsessive scrutiny inherent in the pursuit of perfection.