

MANHATTAN

Number 34

Four Dollars

EIGHT WOMEN— Art, Sex, & Politics in the 90's

Arts & Entertainment

Eight Women
In this year of politics and economics, these eight women artists also present sexual politics and love.

“Real women are about passion, sensuality, magic, and beauty. You needn't be a pugilist to be a feminist.”

Always one to excite (and intrigue), gallerist *Rebecca Cooper* is hosting a new art exhibit, whose invitation reads: *'feminie,' n. Women collectively; Womankind. (Middle English, from Old French, from Latin femina, female.)*

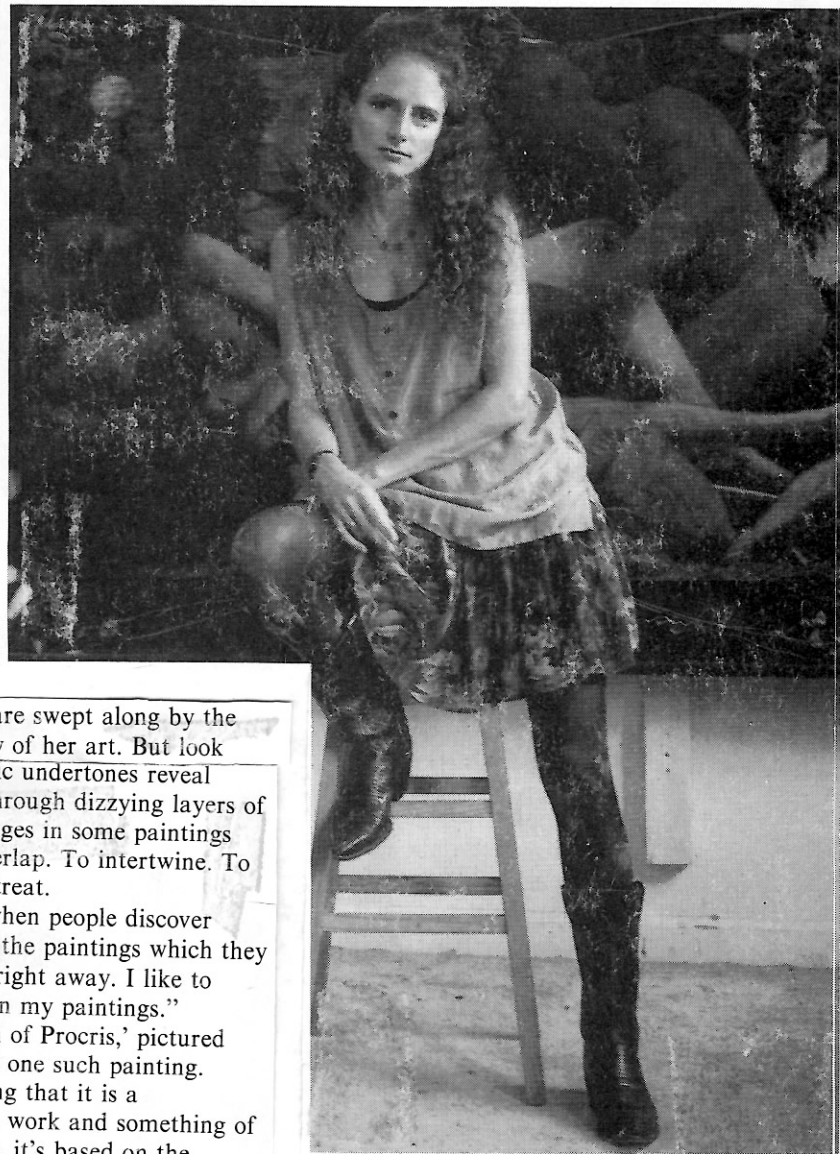
The show is both politically and socially provocative, and Rebecca is understandably enthusiastic.

“We are representing feminine talent—body, mind, and soul.”

Jana Jagendorf is the curator, and her assemblage of artists—and the dramatic exhibit itself—is her statement.

Open now and running through December 20, the show is at Rebecca Cooper Fine Arts, 903 Park Avenue, 772-2726, by appointment.

Has it been only a few minutes that I've been here with *Elinore Hollinshead*? Already I've fallen under the spell of the electricity around her. She has a fierce intelligence, honed by her education at Oxford, where she studied art and art history; at Yale, where she graduated cum laude; and at Indiana University, where she received an MFA.



Elinore Hollinshead

You also are swept along by the raw sexuality of her art. But look again. Psychic undertones reveal themselves through dizzying layers of subtlety. Images in some paintings appear to overlap. To intertwine. To touch and retreat.

“I like it when people discover something in the paintings which they haven't seen right away. I like to have secrets in my paintings.”

Her ‘Death of Procris,’ pictured behind her, is one such painting. Acknowledging that it is a psycho-sexual work and something of a self-portrait, it's based on the tragedy of misunderstanding that befell the mythological lovers.

“The story of Procris is a very sad one, of love and sex and death, the Greek interplay between Eros and Thanatos. Cephalus kills his love Procris with her own magic javelin, thinking she was a deer hiding in the woods. As she dies, he realizes she was spying on him because she felt—wrongly—that he was being unfaithful.

“The birds in the painting symbolize the soul,” says Ellie. She points to a black cat near the figure. “The cat represents the lunar, desire,

and death—but it's also my cat Norton,” she adds impishly.

Myths and allegory inform her work, but there is something far more personal here. “I have a vivid, too vivid, dream life,” admits the artist.

A teacher in Providence Rhode Island, her paintings also are informed by her travels through the Yucatan, Europe, and Greece.

“In art,” she explains, “the three realities—what exists briefly here and now, what exists in your memory, and what's real only in your mind and heart—can lose their boundaries, and become one.” *