

FORT GANSEVOORT

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subversive images of sports culture by collier schorr, catherine opie, and sadie barnette

31 female artists challenge the macho athlete archetype in 'March Madness,' an exhibition striking at the intersection of sports and politics during Women's History Month.



Collier Schorr, "Beauty (K.T.)," 2002

As #MarchMadness soars above the political chaos to hit the top of Twitter's trending list, a different take on the annual sports showdown is happening in NYC. Hank Willis Thomas and Adam Shopkorn have curated an exhibition that looks at the sports world from the perspective of women artists. Sadie Barnette, Catherine Opie, Zoe Buckman, Jordan Casteel, Miranda July, and Cindy Sherman are among the 31 artists whose work features in Fort Gansevoort's *March Madness* exhibition, which coincides with Women's History Month. Their work challenges traditional masculine archetypes by using athleticism to explore overlooked narratives, as well as issues of race, gender roles, empowerment, politics, and pop culture.



Catherine Opie, "High School Football," 2012

"For many, sports are a vehicle for upward mobility," says NYC art curator Kalia Brooks of the show. "The glamour of the professional athlete has attracted the ambition of young people for generations, and the ritual of competition liken the atmosphere at sporting events to that of a religious experience. For these reasons, the collective activity of participating in sports is imbued with the sensation of transcending physical and mental limitations."



Sadie Barnett, "Untitled (Pink Bike)," 2016

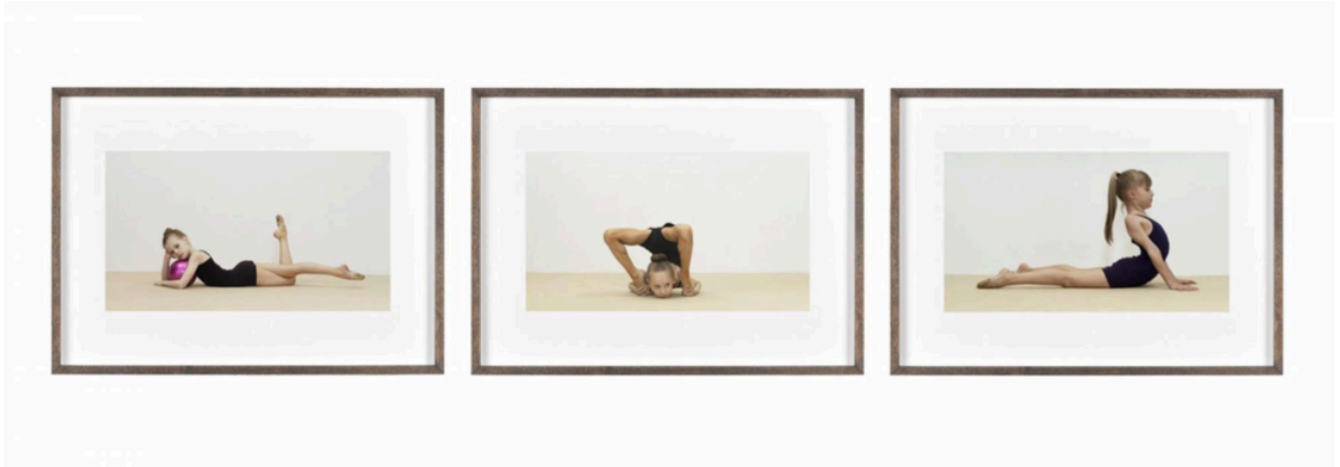
Adam and Hank are both self-described sports fans, having curated a previous *March Madness* show honoring the spirit of the Black Power salute thrown up by Tommie Smith and John Carlos during their medal ceremony at the 1968 Olympics. The most striking photographs in the new exhibition include Opie's atypical portraits of all-American high school football players, Sadie Barnette's photo of a plastic

pink quad bike in front of a graffiti-covered fence, and Collier Schorr's haunting image of a fresh-faced kid in perfectly ill-fitting basketball silks. Elsewhere, painter Renée Cox imagines her racism-fighting superhero alter-ego Raje as the first Jamaican-American president, and Swiss pop artist Sylvie Fleury – tackling two timely sports tournaments at once – presents a Formula 1 racing dress designed in collaboration with Hugo Boss.

"March Madness" is on view at New York's Fort Gansevoort (<http://www.fortgansevoort.com/current/>) from March 16, 2017 through May 7, 2017. An opening reception takes place tonight from 6-9pm.



Renee Cox, "Raje For President," Raje Series, 1998



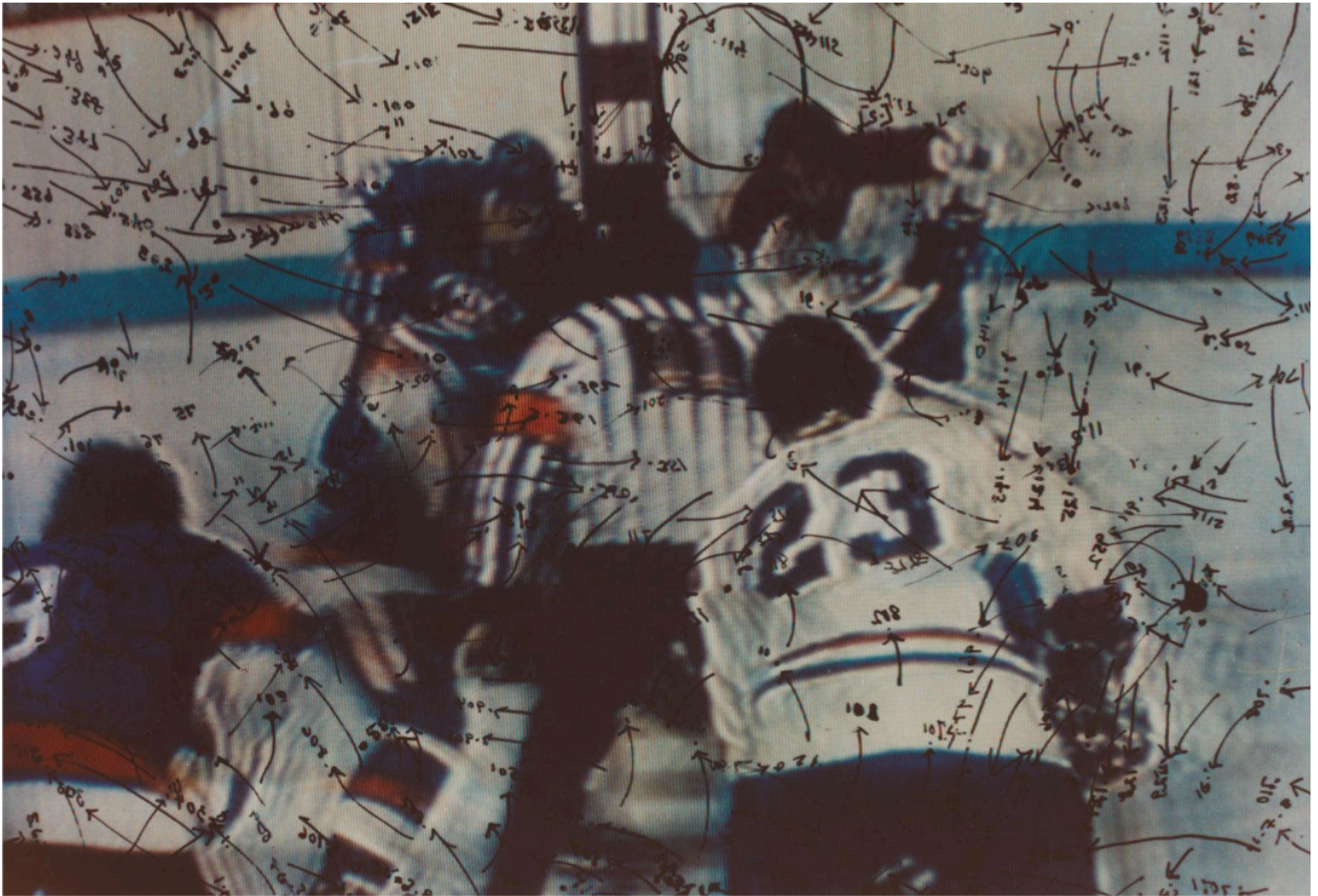
Rineke Dijkstra, "The Gymschool, St. Petersburg (Anna, Eva, Lera) #2," 2014



Miranda July, "Eleven Heavy Things," 2009



Sylvie Fleury, "Formula 1 Dress and Bag," 1999



Howardena Pindell, "Video Drawings: Hockey," 1975



Catherine Opie, "High School Football," 2012

Credits

Text Hannah Ongley

Images courtesy of Fort Gansevoort