



Feature May Member Artist |

Valeria Caflich | *Evidence*

Hillyer Art Space Exhibitions | September 7, 2012- September 28, 2012

While living in Berlin, Valeria Caflich discovered a collection of historic photographs of Italian women bandits on the internet. She was attracted by their gaze through the monitor and kept them in her mind promising herself that one day, she would give them a voice.

Caflich researched these women and came to find that they were each Italian women who lived during the 1860's in a revolutionary period during the unification of Italy. While they were simple women, they lived with a husband, father or lover who were all bandits and therefore these women became what they were: women bandits. Their life stories were sometimes tragic, some of them were in fact killers, but for others, joining rebel-hood was not a choice.

Through the process of charcoal drawing, Caflich realized how rich and charged their dresses and bodies are in contrast to their traditional dress. Their dress does not allow the viewer to imagine their rebellious life; we might think that these women are holding brooms instead of weapons. Consider the relationship between women and tools. How does this pairing project our prejudice toward women? If a weapon can represent like a household tool, what about a household tool looking menacing like a crime scene object?

These thoughts led the artist into her series, Evidences. This body of work becomes much more than a simple dialogue between artifacts, it is about dealing with past failed judgments and trying to learn from mistakes to improve. It is about choices we have or in life. It's about prejudice and household and how we deal with the symbolism of these household tools.

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