



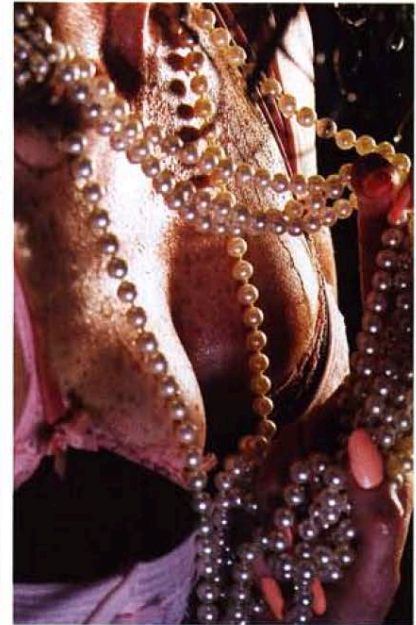


# REGEN PROJECTS

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Baldwin Gallery, Aspen) helps explain why. Juxtaposing four, mostly large, enamel-on-metal paintings with three (nearly as large) color photographs, it highlighted the similarity of effect in her works, whatever the medium. The exhibition made it clear that if her paintings are based in photography, her photographs are imbued with the vision

of a painter. This symbiotic relationship was most evident in a painting and a photograph depicting the same subject. In the 8-by-5-foot painting *Glazed* (2006), a heavily made-up eye appears open, watching like that of a bird of prey. *Cyclone* (2006), a photograph of the same eye, gorgeously dusted with purple glitter but this time closed, revels in the



*Above, Rosary, 2006, C-print, 50 by 36 inches.*

*Left, Crystal Swallow, 2006, enamel on metal, 96 by 60 inches. Blanton Museum, Austin.*

decomposition of the subject in a disorienting play of reflections and points of light, each little spangle like a brushstroke that constructs the image and takes it to pieces at once. That's a fundamentally painterly perception.

Most paintings-that-look-like-photographs look more or less alike—styleless—because so do most photographs (I mean the family snapshots and news photos that are generally the raw material for such work). Thanks to their extreme stylization, Minter's paintings and photographs manage to break this predictable cycle. Her paintings may look like photographs but the photographs they resemble, made with a painter's eye, don't look like anyone else's. Minter's unwavering pursuit of excessive sensation and raunchy surfaces amounts not to a "dirty realism" but, if anything, to a dirty formalism. □

1. Carlo McCormick, "Fashion Crisis," *Paper*, March 2006, p. 58.

2. Bruce Hainley, "Solitary Refinement: Marilyn Minter's 'Coral Ridge Towers,'" *Artforum*, January 1996, p. 61.

*Marilyn Minter's recent paintings and photographs were shown at Salon 94, New York [Nov. 12, 2006-Jan. 20, 2007], Gavlak, West Palm Beach [Nov. 25, 2006-Jan. 6, 2007], and Baldwin Gallery, Aspen [Dec. 26, 2006-Jan. 30, 2007]. Works by the artist will also appear in Les Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles [July 3-Sept. 16].*

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