

THE NEW YORKER

JANUARY 4, 2016

ART

MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

Guggenheim Museum

"Photo-Poetics: An Anthology"

Ten artists—all women, with the exception of Elad Lassry—are brought together to illustrate recent conceptual approaches to contemporary photography. As a group, they see the medium from a critical distance, and, as with the Pictures generation before them, an obvious influence, much of their work involves appropriated images. The result is photography once removed—slyly self-referential, often brilliant but also arcane. Anne Collier, Leslie Hewitt, and Erica Baum make the most direct connections, via pop culture: album covers, illustrated books, magazines, snapshots, both isolated and juxtaposed, jogging the collective memory. Like Hewitt, Sara VanDerBeek and Kathrin Sonntag construct sculptural environments for found photographs and other art-historic images (Rodchenko, Miró, Lichtenstein), creating small, private, even insular worlds. When those overlap with the world at large, as they do in Erin Shirreff and Moyra Davey's video pieces, the art resonates and engages, opening up what is an otherwise closed conversation. Through March 23.