The Hispanic Project (19)

Part (12)
Nikki S. Lee (b. 1970) is often labeled a photographer, but she rarely takes her own pictures. She prefers to conceptualize works rather than remain behind the camera. Lee recruits others—amateur and professional photographers alike—to capture the episodes she conceives.

Take a closer look

Lee created two photographic series from 1997 to 2003. In “Projects,” she infiltrated subcultures, such as energetic swing dancers and elderly New Yorkers, and posed as a member. In “Parts,” Lee staged scenes of herself and a male figure. She then cropped out all but a hint of her companion.

In her own words

“I’m more likely to be influenced by the little snapshots I see on a wall when I go to somebody’s house. I’m inspired by real life, by the ordinariness of people taking pictures of people.”

Nikki S. Lee, *The Hispanic Project (19)*, 1998; Fujiflex print; 29 x 22 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Nikki S. Lee; Courtesy of Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York

Nikki S. Lee, *Part (12)*, 2003; Fujiflex print mounted on aluminum; 30 x 26¼ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © 2003 Nikki S. Lee; Courtesy of Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York