

Untitled (30)



Untitled (79)



Untitled (30), 1998

Untitled (79), 2000

## Up Close and Personal

**Hellen van Meene (b. 1972)** creates smaller works than many contemporary photographers. The images' tight framing and small size invite an intimate experience between viewer and subject.

### Take a closer look

Van Meene carefully constructs her compositions by posing her subjects, selecting their clothing, and choosing the setting. Yet, the resulting images appear candid and natural.

### In her own words

"When I am asking a model to do something that does seem somewhat strange, I treat it as if it is a normal thing to ask and I think that creates an atmosphere where it's not a strange or unnerving thing to ask of someone."

### Who knew?

The artist does not use professional models. Often she photographs young women from her hometown of Alkmaar in the Netherlands. When commissioned to work in other countries, such as Japan, van Meene asks young women she meets there to pose for her.

Hellen van Meene, *Untitled (30)*, 1998; Chromogenic color print; 11¾ x 11¾ inches; Edition 2/10; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the Heather and Tony Podesta Collection, Washington, D.C.; © Hellen van Meene, Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery

Hellen van Meene, *Untitled (79)*, 2000; Chromogenic color print; 15¼ x 15¼ inches; Edition 1/10; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the Heather and Tony Podesta Collection, Washington, D.C.; © Hellen van Meene, Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

