

The Ohio Project (8)



Part (12)



The Ohio Project (8), 1999

Part (12), 2003

Serial Artist

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 amateur and professional photographers to capture the episodes she conceives.

Take a closer look

Lee created two series from 1997 to 2003. In “Projects,” she infiltrated subcultures—such as energetic swing dancers, elderly New Yorkers, and rural Ohioans—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 Ohio Project (8)*, 1999; Fujiflex print, 40 x 30 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Nikki S. Lee

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

