

Thomas Solomon Gallery @ **RENTAL** Gallery

**Eve Fowler**

“Gold Star”

March 17<sup>th</sup>-April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Opening Reception- March 17<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm

Thomas Solomon Gallery @ Rental Gallery is pleased to present recent photographs of Los Angeles artist Eve Fowler. The exhibition is titled “Gold Star,” a term meaning a gay man or woman never having had sex with the opposite gender. These investigative photographs follow in a long line of Fowler’s powerful portraits of women. They each have a haunting and disturbing quality, exploring issues of questionable identity and sexuality. The subjects seem posed/well composed, but emit the natural snapshot quality of a caught moment.

One photograph is of a young woman standing in an outdoor setting dressed in pants and a plaid shirt with a purple carnation in her vest. She holds a straw hat in her right hand as she so gracefully exposes an eagle and a star tattoo on her left arm and wrist. Her gaze is soft, hypnotic, and striking. Fowler’s images blur genders seamlessly. In another image, a woman stands in a brightly day-lit room by a window—her hair long and glistening in the light. Her lips are soaked with bright red lipstick and she stands with her hands tucked into her slightly unbuttoned pants. She is shirtless and as the image reveals itself we notice her breasts have been surgically removed, though the scars are exposed in very subtle way. She is androgenous and confident looking, but many clues in the photographs combine to makes one think of this youth, her possible sexual crisis, and her sexual identity, as well as our own. Each picture exposes the fragility and power of its character as well as their human pathos. Fowler’s photographs mine through areas of classical portrait painting and photography, underground film, and the places where private and public converge, creating a unique voice.

Eve Fowler received her BA from Temple University and her MFA from Yale University. She has exhibited her work in venues including Works on Paper, Sundown Salon and Peres Projects in Los Angeles; The New Museum, White Columns, Julie Saul, Paul Morris, and

Wessel + O'Connor in New York; and The Smithsonian Institution and The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Her work was seen most recently at Participant Gallery in a group show titled "Blow Both of Us," LACE in Los Angeles titled "Shared Women." Her work is in public collections of S.F. MOMA, The New Museum, and The Smithsonian as well as private collections.