

'Past, Present, Future': This show of five photographers—Daniel Faust, Amanda Means, Andres Serrano, Susan Unterberg, and Carrie Mae Weems—covers a lot of current concerns in the arts. Means and Unterberg use very different subject matter (the former photographs leaves, branches, and the "detritus of nature"; the latter mothers and daughters), but both question natural and visual patterns and employ large close-ups to exaggerate significant details. Faust and Serrano create theatrical tableaux, using inspirations and execution that couldn't be more unlike. Where Faust's glossy Cibachromes play with media-promulgated images, Serrano makes wonderful fun of "classic" painting and photography techniques by setting large, well-lighted, centrally placed figures in subtle color-field backgrounds. His images are humorous, frightening, surreal, and mythic (a cow's head on a pedestal with one lively staring eye). The show's standout, however, is Carrie Mae Weems, who presents a text/photo journal of complex familial relationships, and a splendid triptych which, while entertaining, clearly conveys her concern with black and white. Through August 10, the New Museum of Contemporary Art, 583 Broadway at Prince Street, 219-1222. (O'Reilly)

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