

PHOTO

REVIEWS BY VINCE ALETTI

PHOTO SHORT LIST

SUSAN WIDES

Wides's work can be chillingly conceptual, but this quirky series of botanicals has a lushness and humor that's anything but cold. As if through a spy glass (or, she suggests, from a vantage deep in Alice's rabbit hole), Wides vignettes each of her bee's-eye views within a hazy black oval. The flowers in Wides's iris shots all have name tags that swim into focus almost by accident and work like found poetry, hinting at romance and pleasure that remain tantalizingly out of reach. Even half-buried in snow, these signs (FEMME, SUMMER FASHION, AUDREY HEPBURN) suggest an ironic but fiercely tenacious femininity, a realm of the senses you can only enter through the looking glass. Through April 13, Kim Foster Gallery, 62 Crosby Street, 966-9024. (Aletti)