

<http://thedetroiter.com/b2evoArt/blogs/index.php?blog=2&p=102&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1>
CopyCats @ CPOP

CPOP has been going experimental all summer with a series of two week shows covering a different theme for each exhibition run. (Great for seeing new work, and getting repeat visits to the gallery, not so great for reviewers always chronically two weeks behind the opening!) This time out the Girlee Collective puts on the show with copying as its theme.

Each artist chose a past female artist to emulate and then created a new piece based in some way on the past artists works. For those of you out there who see the word “copy” and immediately think bad, unoriginal this is far from the case. Copying is an essential aspect of the creative process. By copying we acquire skills quickly and much more efficiently than by reinventing the wheel each time out. For established artists copying can mean trying things otherwise out of that person’s existing repertoire, taking risks they might not otherwise do.



Manos performing “Cut”

In terms of taking risks, Melanie Manos took more than a few with her restaging of Yoko Ono’s performance, “Cut Piece” which she titles simply “Cut.” Audience members use a pair of scissors to cut away at the artist’s clothing. Both artists faced risks in the form of the scissors coming dangerously close to their flesh and the threat of physical exposure. While Ono sat passively as this was done to her, Manos added her own twist to the piece. In the instructions to the audience, each participant was told to share a secret with her after they cut a piece of clothing. This resulted in a great deal of laughter for Manos (and perhaps a blackmail list....). “Cut”, like the

original, deals with issues of vulnerability and the objectifying of the artist under the audiences gaze and shears. By bringing interaction to the piece, Manos cuts away the barriers between subject and audience and both sides are forced to deal with different aspects of their vulnerability and exposure.

– Nick Sousanis