



Deborah Turbeville

By Jessica Dawson

Whoever thought Nineties-era heroin chic was scandalous never saw Deborah Turbeville's pictures. The fashion photographer, who died three years ago at the age of 81, was shooting haute emaciation a whole two decades before Kate Moss slunk into the frame. At Deborah Bell, several dozen of Turbeville's photos and photo collages, shot for major magazines and fashion houses in the Seventies and early Eighties, show an artist in daringly full mope. Her pictures are black-and-white or sepia-toned, their images blurred or grainy, their surfaces seemingly abraded. If a typical fashion model says *Look at me*, a Turbeville fashionista insists on the opposite: that we stay away. And while the show won't dissuade folks who think fashion people take themselves too seriously, it introduces us to a woman of the lens (working in a field dominated by men) who was dedicated to making modeling more cerebral than sexy.

Photograph: Betsey Johnson, Chinatown, New York, 1972 (detail). © The Deborah Turbeville Foundation / Courtesy Deborah Bell Photographs.