

**CULTURE**

Elizabeth Peyton reinvents the art of portrait painting **W3**

**GOLF JOURNAL**

Braving frozen ponds and frigid temperatures for a round of ice golf **W9**

**FOOD**

In Iceland, prices are down: Time to try puffin, reindeer and moose **W4**

# WEEKEND JOURNAL.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, February 7 - 8, 2009 **W9**

## LEISURE & ARTS

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

By **WILLIAM MEYERS**

**"Figure Studies"**

*Deborah Bell Photographs*  
511 W. 25th St., Room 703  
212-691-3883

Deborah Bell has assembled 22 pictures taken over a period of 120 years to suggest ways that photography can represent the human figure. The earliest is Edward Muybridge's "Plate 480 from 'Animal Locomotion,' 1887," a collotype of a nude child climbing stairs. In Muybridge's serial images, the little girl learning to crawl is a marvel. Mariana Cook's "Baby's Dress, New York City, 10 September 1999, 12:30 p.m." is a white gown with lace on the sleeves and hem that would look nice on Muybridge's naked girl, but the figure here is suggested by its absence.

Peter Hujar's somewhat doleful "Cindy Lubar as Queen Victoria, 1974" presents the male figure in drag, its true anatomy hidden under a ball gown, whereas Susan Paulsen's "Block Island, 2006 (Sarah)," taken outdoors in very even

light, makes clear that her naked subject is a woman. There are two Louis Faurer images in the show, "Untitled (lingerie for Harper's Bazaar), New York, 1962," a shot for an ad in which a beautiful female body is used for commercial purposes, and "Suzie posing on stools at the Art Students League, NYC, 1971," in which an obese woman models for seven painters standing at their easels.

Daido Moriyama photographed himself in a town identified with folkloric spirits, but all we see of him in "Self-Portrait, Tono, Japan, n.d. (1960s)" is his insubstantial shadow. There are six pictures by Erwin Blumenfeld from the 1930s, '40s and '50s in which his nudes dematerialize from straight images to abstract solarizations.

*Mr. Meyers's photo exhibition "The Water's Edge" will be at Staten Island, N.Y.'s Alice Austen House Museum from March 1 to May 1.*