

Art in Review

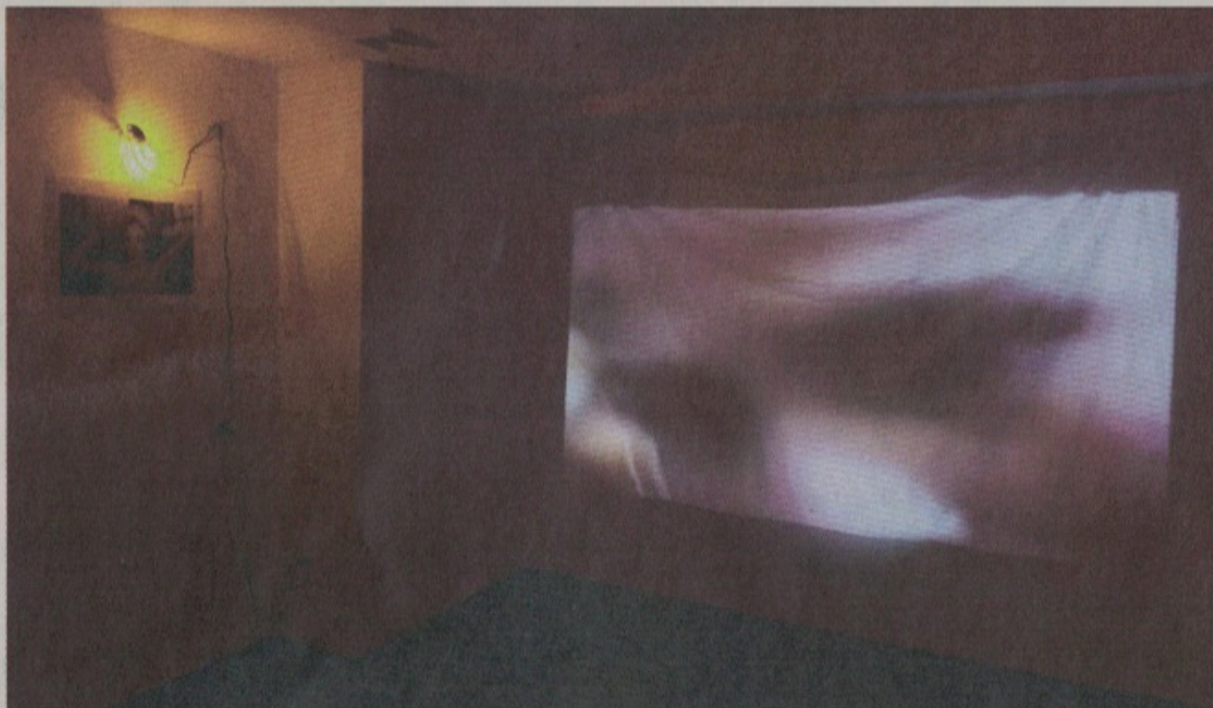
Hilton Als

'One Man Show: Holly, Candy, Bobbie and the Rest'

*The Artist's Institute
132 East 65th Street, Manhattan
Through April 24*

Hilton Als is best known as a theater critic for *The New Yorker*, but he also has a history in the visual arts. In 2009 he and Justin Vivian Bond organized a memorable show including gay performers at La MaMa Galleria in the East Village. And now Mr. Als is revealed as an artist himself, and an accomplished one, in "One Man Show: Holly, Candy, Bobbie and the Rest," at the Artist's Institute, a solo that is not quite a solo: It's an evocation of transgender performers, most of them now deceased, who in one way or another deeply affected his life.

Some, like Jackie Curtis, Candy Darling, Ethyl Eichelberger and Holly Woodlawn, starred in underground films and theater. Others, like the magisterial Storme DeLarverie, were Stone-wall heroes. Still others, like the Bobbie of the title, simply performed their



An installation view of this show, an evocation of transgender performers, most of them now deceased, who in one way or another affected Mr. Als's life.

trans lives in ways that Mr. Als found inspiring and transfixing. Images of all appear, mirage-like, in this multimedia show, which is both a visually ingenious installation and a dream-time scrapbook of a memoir.

Many of the deities in Mr. Als's pantheon are also in mine, so let me mention that one of them, Ms. Woodlawn, who died last year, can also be seen in Zackary Drucker and Rhys Ernst's short 2012 film "She Gone Rogue," at Smack Mellon, in Dumbo, Brooklyn. Part of a group show organized by Alexis Heller and on view through Sunday, the film casts Ms. Woodlawn as confidante and mentor to a younger transgender artist, bringing the lineage that Mr. Als memorializes vivaciously into the present.

HOLLAND COTTER