

Technology, science, and philosophy are not for the faint of heart.

Traditionally, women have been deemed too emotional and irrational for this, so it's been a man's job. But that's just bullshit. With her unique brand of cyberpunk feminism, Belgian artist Anne-Mie van Kerckhoven has broken apart all restrictive and standardized codes and transformed female vulnerability into female virility.

Early on, van Kerckhoven understood that nothing can break (or steer) a man's concentration better than a naked woman. So she started merging her vast collection of soft-core porn magazines from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s with her equally vast collection of philosophical and scientific sources. This soon led to productive collisions between fragmented images, words, and bright colors. It's kind of like bebop, she says, where there are always two things going on at the same time, always fighting, always harmonizing.

Make no mistake: this is about liberation, perception, and self-determination. At fifty-nine years old, van Kerckhoven lives on her own terms and takes nothing for granted. Art is her mechanism for survival, her way of stripping concepts of their one-sidedness and rearming them—what she calls moral rearmament. She isn't interested in interpreting the world as much as complicating it with fearless acts of subcognition, sentimentality, and intelligent incoherence. In other words—borrowed from Charlie Parker himself—oop bop shbam.

Reflecting Subjectives (2010) borrows from Regal, a French “men’s magazine” from the 1950s, as well as from the astronomer Samuel Tolansky’s 1968

book *Revolution in Optics*. The two-sided digital print, heightened by hand coloring, is mounted on top of a mirror, making it hard to distinguish between what you see, what you understand, and what you want. The new drawings involve cut-outs from *Panorama*, a stylish cult magazine, and scraps of text from a 1969 Flemish edition of a German encyclopedia about art in the 20th Century. The artist translated the excerpts into English herself, creating lines of verse. These constellations of images are fierce, sexy, and maybe even a bit demonic—equally effective and affective. Which reminds us . . . van Kerckhoven is also a member of the sludge-noise band Club Moral. Check them out.

This is all on view from April 22 through May 22, 2011.