

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

ARTFORUM

Helen Molesworth's Best of 2012

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CINDY SHERMAN'S WALLPAPER (MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK) Sherman's foray into wallpaper is, for me, a near Brechtian exercise in affect: Laugh or cry?



7. Above: Cindy Sherman, *Untitled*, 2010, pigment print on PhotoTex adhesive fabric. Installation view, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2012. Photo: Thomas Griesel.

Alone, misshapen, melancholic, Sherman offers herself as a Pierrot for the twenty-first century. If Watteau's *fêtes galantes* were covert critiques of an aristocracy run amok, in which the artist was imagined as a kind of decorator-clown, then Sherman's wallpaper intimates that decades of feminism have resulted in modest gains in a game whose rules remain dishearteningly unchanged.