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Show and Tell: Tracey Moffatt

Karen Rosenberg



(Photo: Tracey Moffatt/Courtesy of Stux Gallery [2])

At Stux Gallery

Through February 10.

I share a birth date with Grace Kelly and Charles Manson. They're my spiritual twins," says Tracey Moffatt. The Australian photographer's latest series, "Under the Sign of Scorpio," considers 40 other powerful astrological sisters, from Marie Curie to Hillary Clinton, represented by the artist in costume against Photoshopped backgrounds of nebulae and explosions. The result pokes fun at the flaky, fake intimacy of the celebrity-weekly horoscope page (Demi Moore and Matthew McConaughey are both Scorpios, just like me!), while paying genuine tribute to the characteristics—fearlessness, stubbornness, secretiveness—most often associated with Scorps. "I'm not that obsessed, but I think there are some elements of truth in astrology," says the artist, who notes in an accompanying essay that scorpions "can 'cross over' into dark worlds and come back unscathed." And speaking of tough, hard-shelled creatures, Vogue's Anna Wintour is one of Moffatt's subjects. "Anna is a brilliant magazine editor who went into the cauldron of the fashion world," says Moffatt with a sense of awe. "There's nothing more bitchy than the fashion world."