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Art in Review

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Katy Grannan: 'Mystic Lake'

Greenberg Van Doren

730 Fifth Avenue

Through Feb. 4

Katy Grannan now gets her nonprofessional models through referrals more often than through newspaper ads. But she is still getting the subjects of her grippingly intimate color photographs to reveal themselves in ways that most of us would be too guarded to permit. Because she shot her subjects not in their homes, as she had in the past, but in rural, outdoor situations - around a lake near Boston - and because most seem comfortable with what they are doing, the suspicions of voyeurism and exploitation that her earlier works prompted give way in her new photographs to sympathetic curiosity. Her models are like characters in stories by Raymond Carver or Mary Gaitskill, and the camera seems to love them all.

Each person poses lying down or partly reclining - usually on unkempt grass, sometimes in shallow water - and is identified by first name and year of birth. Some are fully clothed, some naked and most partly undressed. The shirtless boy named Robbie, born in 1994, stares at the camera with feral intensity. In the case of Alan, 1951, a large, heavy man with a hairy body and shaved head, his corpulent, full-frontal nudity is matched by the sweet openness of his face. You can only imagine who and what these people really are, yet somehow it feels as if Ms. Grannan is giving you all you really need to know. KEN JOHNSON