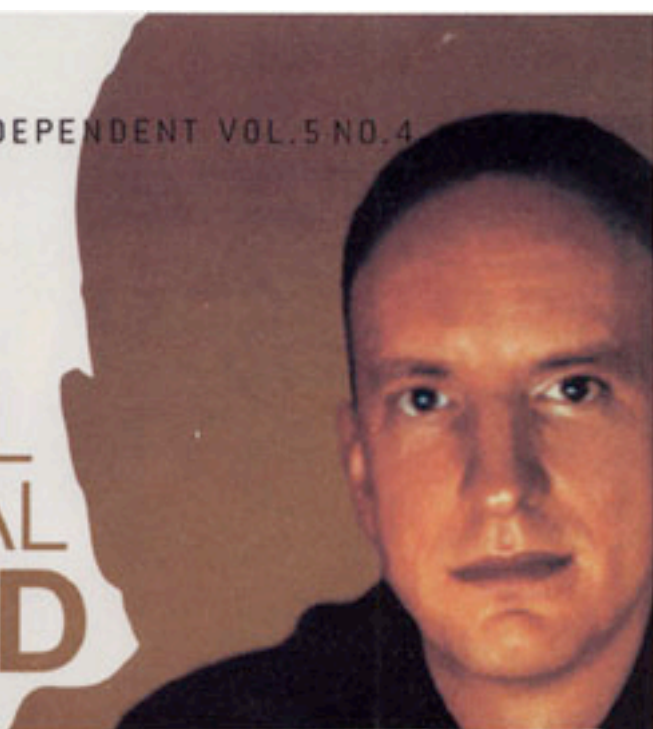


RES

RESOLUTION INDEPENDENT VOL. 5 NO. 4

FULL FRONTAL UNCOVERED STEVEN SODERBERGH



SUPER ACTION FIGURE

MICHELLE HANDELMAN'S PERFORMANCE ART

Following in the footsteps of feminist artists such as Nikki de Saint Phalle, Hannah Wilke and Carolee Schneemann, video and performance artist Michelle Handelman not only reckons with central issues from previous decades - the body, agency, sexuality - but adds themes from contemporary culture, including technology, to create smart, vibrant and often humorous performance pieces. Handelman, who moved from San Francisco to New York two years ago, is perhaps best known for *BloodSisters*, a documentary exploring the lesbian S/M scene. Her more recent work, however,

is performance-based. In her *Cannibal Garden* series, for example, Handelman borrowed from the tropes of sci-fi films and fairytales, exploding myths while reckoning with the relationship between the body and the camera, and the play of desire between the two. In the more recent *The Adventures of Lucky M.*, Handelman becomes a "Super Action Anti-Heroine;" the character first appeared at The Aldrich Museum during a paintball gun shoot-out with the white-suited heroine splattering canvases with paint in a parodic interpretation of action painting. When she did the performance at the LAB in San Francisco last April, Handelman shot the gallery walls daily over the course of a week, creating an ever-evolving performance-painting. The paintings were also video taped, and the time-lapse images were projected on a wall. Handelman then invited guests to participate for one night during the performance. The resulting mix of ideas - including the role of the body in performance, the intermingling of digital technology and older media, and collaboration - coalesce in Handelman's characteristically smart, inventive work.

Sarah Smith

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