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# Art & Design

Time Out Chicago / Issue 221 : May 21–27, 2009

Critic's Rating

**Art review**

## Zoe Crosher

By Lauren Weinberg

**TOC Blog**

**Time Out Chicago Kids debut issue**  
5:12pm  
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**TOC Poll**

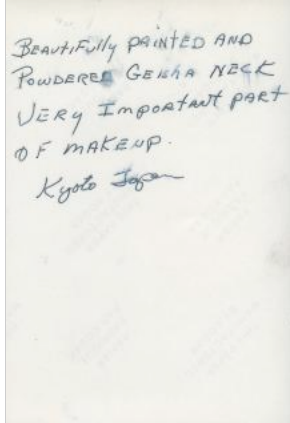
We want to know what you think. Click here to answer this week's poll question.

65Grand, through Jun 13.

Two women of mystery dominate Zoe Crosher's intriguing show "Selections from the Analog Collection: From the Reconsidered Archive of Michelle du Bois." The first is du Bois, whom 65Grand identifies as an American woman who worked her way through Asia as a prostitute during the 1970s and 1980s, leaving behind a trove of travel snapshots, soft-porn self-portraits and other photos documenting her free-spirited adventures.

The second is Crosher herself. The Los Angeles-based artist does not explain how she obtained du Bois's archive nor why she "reconsiders" it, juxtaposing du Bois's original images with her own photos of those photos. Although du Bois's clothes and hairstyles look convincingly vintage, Crosher seems to dare us to question whether her images are real—and if they are, how much of the du Bois biography we're given is true.

Du Bois radiates sexual confidence in her photos, including *One of the Only Images from the Archive with Her Eyes Closed* (2008), a Polaroid of herself with a male companion. His face has been blacked out with a marker so that it blends into the photo's murky background, making his white shirt and du Bois's pale shoulders pop out of the darkness. A striking image of a geisha's neck demonstrates du Bois's artistic talent. We find these works more compelling than Crosher's "This Paper Manufactured by Kodak" series. While these photos of the tattered backs of du Bois's pictures convey Crosher's interest in their materiality, she could have made her point with fewer than six pieces.



Crosher, *This Paper Manufactured by Kodak/Papier Fabrique Par Kodak*, no 5, 2008.

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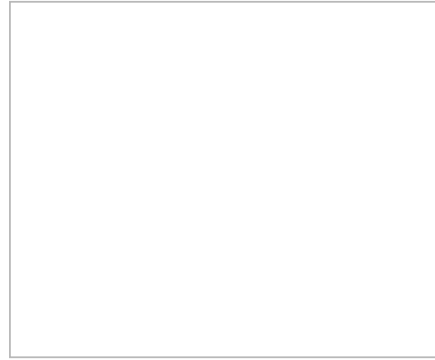
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