



# TALKING BACK

A PRESENTATION OF T-SHIRT MESSAGES AND THE BODIES WHO WEAR THEM

BY PHOTOGRAPHER LESLIE LYONS

# THE PROJECT

TALKING BACK aims to elucidate the dynamics of personal expression across the landscape of pop culture in America with a fashion monograph celebrating the unique personal essence of t-shirt culture and its power to convey the essential passions of its wearer. My subjects are real people and these are their real shirts. Some shirts were bought, some home made but all represent an extension of self that each subject wishes you to know or believe about them or to provoke a thought or stance. I resisted interviews and giving more information. What these subjects came with are all we present of them. The cycle of communication is then definitive upon viewing each subject, each message. The artistic choice to shoot on 4X5 Polaroid and then scan and digitize the results brings together the very organic, tangible nature of the craft of photography as well as the future of the medium.

-Leslie Lyons

*"I have had the opportunity to see Leslie Lyons' intriguing portrait series Talking Back. In our current climate of so many ways to be defined, branded, discriminated against, stereotyped and categorized, Lyons' portraits present to us - with humor and poignancy - each person's own 'identifier' through their selection of a t-shirt that has an image or word which they believe says 'something' of who they are. Lyons' use of the t-shirt here is uniquely democratic as everyone, young and old, rich or poor, wears them publicly or privately. The t-shirt is omnipresent as brands are omnipresent. But advertising generally tells us who we 'can be or believe we are' . Lyons' subjects turn advertising branding upside down. By appropriating images and words, her randomly selected subjects tell us who they are by their choice of image or statement."*

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Elyse Goldberg

Director

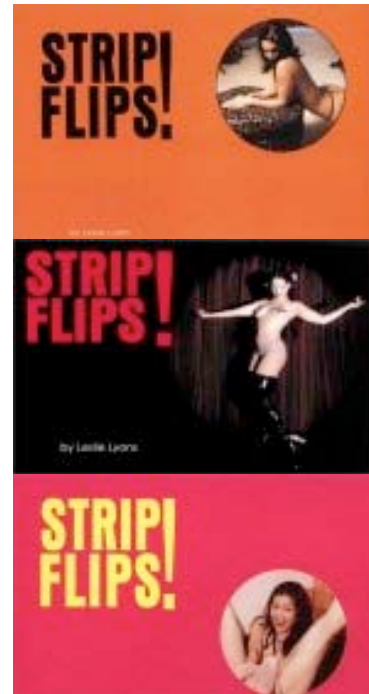
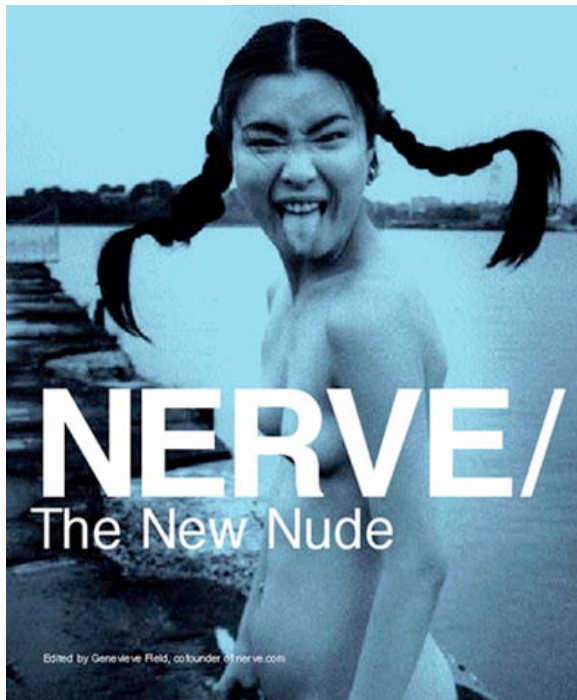
James Cohan Gallery

533 West 26th

New York, New York 10001

# THE ARTIST

Leslie Lyons' other publishing achievements include, Nerve/The New Nude, cover image and four inside pages. This collection, published by Chronicle Books, sold through several printings and was critically acclaimed for its provocative new style of nude imagery. The Strip Flips series ((ANNA, GEORGE, SUSAN, LYLE) was published by powerHouse Books.



Selected exhibitions, lectures, other:

Pool Art Fair/ART BASEL MIAMI (2006)

SAFE: Inside Positive Health Project - slide show presentation at UN Plaza hosted by Dr. Mathilda Krim of AMFAR to benefit PHP. (2002)

SAFE shown at Slide Show Days Photo Festival, Istanbul (2003)

International Center for Photography - lecture on developing trust with subjects (2000)

Play>Endeavors in Media & Art - selected works included in this curated exhibit to coincide with the Humana Playwrights Festival, Actor's Theater of Louisville (2000)

Eddie Adams Photojournalism Workshop-selected attendee (1999)

Clients Include: (2002-2007)

Atlantic Records

Columbia Records/SONY BMG

Creativity Magazine

EMI London

Karpel Group

LIFE Magazine

Universal Music Group

VIBE Magazine