

CHEESE + CRACKERS, GIN + TONIC, AND NOW...ART + VISION

Spex presents ART+VISION with the photography of Niki Miller

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 8, 2008 - Chicago, IL – Spex, the Gold Coast destination for luxury eyewear and sunwear, holds an ART+VISION event with photographer Niki Miller. The reception takes place on Wednesday, September 24 from 5-8 pm, at 44 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611; 312-649-9110; spexchicago.com. The show will run through October 29, 2008. Drinks & hors d'oeuvres will be served. The event is sponsored by Chicago Magazine and Lafont eyewear.

Through ART+VISION, Spex seeks to provide local talent a diverse and receptive audience within the context of a unique retail environment. Spex has always believed in the importance of encouraging the talent that drives all creative endeavors. These well-attended shows are largely due to local creatives who are given a platform for exposure and community connection. Optician Billy Simmons says, “After moving here from Georgia, I was totally amazed to see how much creativity is in this city. I am really proud to be able to be a part of a company that cares about giving exposure to young artists who are trying to reach a broader audience.”



Niki Miller's photographic series *Les Faux* considers the incentives for consumers to purchase fake flowers: a desire to allure viewers with their beauty and complement a space; to possibly persuade any passersby to buy into their organic existence; or to usurp the decorative position held by living plants, surpassing their mortality. Yet, there is a link that exists between these understudies and the homeowners who employ them: they both possess a façade. Miller places these objects in minimal surroundings to explore how their elegance might be diminished without a setting to fall back on, as the flowers become a focus as opposed to an integrated element in a living space. Upon discovering the chipped surfaces, posing petals, and fraying edges, observers are invited to question the perfection of manufacturing and the act of accumulating these adornments for display in their homes.

Niki Miller received her BFA in Photography from Columbia College Chicago in 2008. As a student of advertising and journalism, she became engrossed in America's current state, while consistently referencing its rich and colorful past. She has shown her work through various venues in the Chicagoland area, and often these photographs allude to earlier art forms or economic histories. Niki is a freelance photographer, editor, and writer in the Chicagoland area. Presently, she is a photo editor and assistant for Mireya Acierto Photography. For more information on the artist, visit nicolenoelmiller.com.

Spex offers artfully crafted eyewear and sun wear to a stylish and discerning public with an eye for beauty and function. Their services range from contact lens fittings and eye exams to eyewear styling and repairs. Product lines are frequently updated, while attentive and knowledgeable customer service rounds out the experience for the savvy shopper. Dr. Lindsay Luker, specializing in primary eye care, is the in-house optometrist and encourages all customers to come in for a comprehensive eye exam. Most major medical and routine vision insurances are accepted.

Media Contact: Marilyn Frank, Tel: 847-905-1410, x 26; Email: marilyn.frank@spexchicago.com

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