

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TRIIIBE January 8 – February 13, 2011

*Tribe*: a group of persons having a common character, occupation, or interest\*



DODGEgallery is thrilled to present the New York debut of TRIIIBE, a solo exhibition featuring both performance and photography, opening Saturday, January 8, 2011.

TRIIIBE is a collaborative that obscures the seams of authorship, fusing the input of several parties, most prominently that of photographer Cary Wolinsky and triplets Alicia, Kelly and Sara Casilio. In the way one can imagine the social futility of distinguishing identical sisters growing up, the collaboration required by a multi-media production (including performance, photography, and installation) evades singularity. In fact, TRIIIBE's intent is to shake-up and shift familiar modes of behavior by confusing boundaries and challenging definitions of self.

TRIIIBE raises critical dialogue in their work through usurping stereotypes, borrowing outward signs of observed identities. Like the identity chameleon Nikki S. Lee, TRIIIBE takes dress-up to an uncompromising, passable extent. The difference is, TRIIIBE is not infiltrating social contexts to be subsumed and accepted, they seek visibility in order to call our social constructs into question. Their work also relates to the persona shifting of icon Cindy Sherman, however, the tripling of TRIIIBE's dress-up brings a whole new measure of disruption to identity politics.

Picture three identical women dressed in an exacting fashion and behaving in unison in public. Imagine riding the train to work on a Wednesday morning and seeing three indistinguishable women wearing matching business suits, while periodically sipping their coffee in unison. The tripling of outfit and gesture infuses a lucid consciousness into an otherwise mundane, habitual circumstance. Suddenly, our compliance with a daily routine is disrupted by the extraordinary, and our patterns start to look like choice rather than inevitability.

In a number of their pieces, the triplets take on three distinct, yet conflicting identities, complete with passable signifiers- a hoodie, a burka, or heels. In these constructed circumstances, they are often performing the same gesture- leaning against a bar or standing frontal to the camera. The uncanny result is that they are each dressed in shocking, disruptive difference, yet their faces and bodies are clearly discernable as being the same. Picture three women standing side-by-side holding their pregnant bellies- one looks punk, one preppie and the other Latina. Despite the striking independence of their attire, the sameness of their circumstance, gesture, and faces brings attention to commonality, and calls to question the superficiality of difference. Identity starts to look like a performance, and the question arises, at what point does difference become a construct?

Whether they are dressed identically, or whether they each adopt characteristics that are in sharp contrast to one another, it's impossible to look away from the performances and photographs of TRIIIBE. In the same way, you can't take your eyes off of a car accident, or a deformity, TRIIIBE's work provokes a visceral uncertainty and an indulgent fascination.

\*Merriam-Webster

Image: TRIIIBE, *Compatibility Quiz*, 2009, 5 x 7.

In collaboration with Gallery Kayafas.