

## ARTFORUM

### Desiree Holman

QUEEN'S NAILS ANNEX  
3191 Mission Street  
November 18–December 17



*Something ain't right, 2005.*

Charlton Heston's version of *Planet of the Apes* meets role-playing therapy, tarot-card mysticism, and music video choreography in Desiree Holman's witty and psychologically charged exhibition. It's titled "Troglodyte," a word that the dictionary dually defines as a member of a cave-dwelling community as well as someone who lives alone, anti-socially. Holman made a group of furry latex ape suits that are posed sitting on logs in the leaf-strewn gallery—a mother and chimp, lone males, and an elder hirsute creature that sits alone in a corner. The suits betray their handmade fabrication with rough edges, especially around the grafted-on testicles and drooping breasts, yet these evacuated costumes still channel our evolutionary connection to them. This is especially true when they are pictured, inhabited, in a series of color photographs, most memorably as a clan with cigarettes dangling from the corners of their extended mouths. Best of all is a video projection set in a forest where a costumed group fights, grooms, copulates, and dances like Britney Spears back-ups to a soundtrack of seemingly improvised jazz funk and train horns. Holman infuses the actions with psychedelic video effects that split and mirror the proceedings into a hippie Eden. It all adds up to a complex and entertaining riff on notions of belonging and progress, and of yearning for and fearing our basic instincts.

—Glen Helfand

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