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# STEPHAN STOYANOV GALLERY

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*Four Stories* by Heather Bennett  
Opening Reception, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
6-9pm  
March 1- April 27, 2014



Heather Bennett, *On the Road*, 2013

*Four Stories* is composed of what seems to be a few vignettes, each told through a series of photographs. The structure suggests familiar narrative tropes where there are actually only symbols. Symbols which form an assumed arrangement, a situation that is easily read and fitted into our reality of images, past and present. Upon closer inspection however, the story is full of holes. What at first seems obvious, is only hinted and does not carry through. The settings have an artificiality, the time period is hazy and inconsistent and the emotional import is unclear. Something is amiss, slightly outside of the lines. Where does the story begin and the context end?

The women in these photographs inhabit ordinary roles, remnants of a time, yet they faintly resist. The familiar commercialized sexuality of these characters who are not youthful and light is out of place. That familiar language fails to sum them up. Almost in shadow, they defy their limited place because they subtly direct the scene, barely contain the situation and scarcely tweak their myth. There is an individuality warped by boundary, seeping through our traditionally myopic categorization. Are these women liars or are they all holding some bit of truth? Their choice seems imminent.

Putting herself in these sexualized stereotypes, Heather Bennett questions the credulity of our simple clichés which are segregated from connection and consideration. Her presence doesn't quite belong, an interloper in a scene we thought we understood. She gives us incongruity where there should be comfort, comfort and a reassuring glance.