The Art Newspaper

Three to see: New York
This week's selection focuses on photography

Cindy Sherman’s “self-portraits” in a variety of guises are as beguiling today as they were in 1981, when she burst onto the scene with her Centerfold series. Mnuchin Gallery presents 25 photographs from four decades in a solo exhibition, Cindy Sherman: Once Upon a Time, 1981-2011 (until 10 June). The close-cropped shots of (clothed) characters in the Centerfold series mimic the portrayal of (undressed) pin-ups in nudie magazines—a topic that remains relevant to current conversations on gender. Sherman’s 2008 Society Portraits take on problems of ageing and class through caricatures of older wealthy women, from a heavily-rouged bourgeois Parisian—who comes across as both dowdy and classy in her fur coat and silk scarf—to women sporting glamorous getups and putative plastic surgery. Art history buffs will enjoy Sherman’s interpretations of historical depictions of women, as with a picture of a round, Renaissance-style, breast-baring Madonna.