

YANCEY RICHARDSON GALLERY

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Chosen by Sarah Douglas



Bertien van Manen Yancey Richardson Gallery

The Dutch photographer Bertien van Manen, who was shortlisted for this year's Citibank prize, is having her first solo New York gallery show, a fact that is remarkable given the maturity of her work. While she started out in the world of fashion photography, van Manen went on to make compelling documentary photographs that somehow transcended the genre, capturing her subjects with a from-the-hip honesty and spontaneity that recalls Nan Goldin. While the intimacy of Goldin's photographs has always derived in large part from the fact that her subjects are friends, van Manen's documentary investigations convey a sense of photographic intimacy that comes from a hard-earned knowledge of her subjects. For her astounding series "East West", currently on view here (until 11 October), van Manen made several trips to China in the late 1990s, setting out to record a country in transition; it is rife with images of families and friends in their most telling moments (above, "Hongmei and her father in a lorry").

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