

GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

**MIRIAM BÖHM, ROSY KEYSER,
ERIN SHIRREFF**

Formal mastery meets conceptual smarts in this show of works by three young women obsessed with reflexivity. Böhm's deadpan project involves making a meticulous drawing of a surface, photographing it, then re-photographing it next to the related drawing. Keyser's feisty paintings are more visceral: one large canvas bristles with bits of twine, a coat hanger abutting its perimeter. Shirreff contributes a series of witty collages, which convert austere, black-and-white reproductions of art works into unexpected forms, and an untitled suite of sculptures, which were made by hand but appear to have been pried directly from rocks, like fossils. Through Aug. 12. (Cooley, 34 Orchard St. 212-680-0564.)

"THE ATOMIC EXPLOSION: A COLLECTION OF VINTAGE PHOTOGRAPHS"

At first glance, these sixty-six photographs of atomic blasts may suggest some savvy young artist's conceptual project. But they're actually the faded relics of the early atomic age—pictures taken in the nineteen-forties and fifties, many still bearing the bland captions of the news agencies that first distributed them. Although there are two photographs of the mushroom cloud at Nagasaki, most are of subsequent bomb tests in the Nevada desert and in the South Pacific, flat landscapes that erupt into balls of flame and towering stacks of smoke. Authenticity adds to the pictures' dangerous allure, but, for every gorgeous abstraction, the facts insure that you'll feel a nasty kick in the gut. Through July 29. (Blum, 99 Wooster St. 212-343-0441.)