

Wallpaper, *The Real Thing*, Text/ Elly Parsons, January 28 2016

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## In pictures: the W\* photography desk's daily digest of visual inspiration

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'The Real Thing'  
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Flowers Gallery in New York presents *The Real Thing* - a collection of work from four female photographers, who experiment with gender roles, sexuality and constructed identity.

The works are thematically linked, but visually variant. Juno Calypso weaves a narrative through her series of self-portraits, in which she stages herself as a solitary, seductive voyeur called 'Joyce'. On a darker note, Natasha Caruana captures exchanges (sometimes intimate, sometimes otherwise) between herself and married men that she met through online sites devoted to inter-marriage matchmaking. Pixy Liao's revealing vignettes navigate the power play of her own relationship, from the perspective of a young woman growing up in mainland China.

Finally, Melanie Willhide presents the lighter side of intimacy, in a series of forged photographs of made-up tokens passed between lovers, complete with fabricated glue marks, fingerprints and scribbled sweet nothings.

*The Real Thing: Juno Calypso, Natasha Caruana, Pixy Liao & Melanie Willhide* runs from 28 January until 27 February 2016.

Pictured: *Tiger Tiger*, from the series *Married Men* by Natasha Caruana, 2008-9. Courtesy the artist

Writer: Elly Parsons

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<http://www.wallpaper.com/gallery/art/inspiring-photography-from-the-wallpaper-picture-desk-2016#144316>