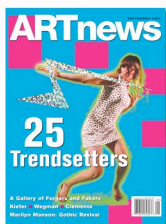


# JASON MCCOY INC.

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ARTnews

## Reviews: New York

### Annelies Strba

Jason McCoy

The Swiss photographer and filmmaker Annelies Strba has been portraying her relatives for more than 25 years, elevating the concept of the family photograph to a career in itself. In this exhibition of ink-jet images printed on canvas, Strba captures four generations of her relations, mostly girls and women, in moody, poetic, and sensuous works that recall scenes from French director Eric Rohmer's film *Le Genou de Claire* (Claire's Knee, 1970), which takes place in just such an enchanted Switzerland.

The setting is Strba's family home in Melide, a place of lush gardens, stately trees, and precipitous mountains. It's a locale in which she and her subjects are notably at ease.

A dense green forest is the backdrop in *NYIMA 307* (2006), which shows a little girl in an old-fashioned green dress leaning against a moss-covered tree trunk. Her eyes are closed, and her ear is pressed against the tree as if she can hear its secrets. In *NYIMA 320* (2006), another



Annelies Strba, *NYIMA 149*, 2004, inkjet print on canvas, 49 1/4" x 73 1/2".

Jason McCoy.

girl, this one older and wearing a long white dress, sprawls voluptuously on the ground.

The figures look like characters from romantic novels, giving themselves over fully to the natural world and to their own uninhibited natures. The gentle

*NYIMA 149* (2004) features a girl leaning over a patch of earth, studying something we can't see. The curve of her back mimics the graceful lines of the trees around her.

Strba can also work magic without a human subject. In the brooding *NYIMA 257* (2005), she captures pale clouds rising over a dark and lonely hill in such a way that human presence is implied in the emotion of the moment. Strba conveys with extraordinary eloquence the power of the relationship between human beings and nature. —Valerie Gladstone