

# NYLON

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PHOTO BY ALEX PRAGER

art

## VALLEY GIRL

Alex Prager's addictingly eerie photographs make their UK debut.

Alex Prager has no formal training in photography. Hell, she's had no formal education in anything since the 8th grade! Yet after years of traveling across the United States and Europe during her teenage years, she stumbled across a William Eggleston exhibit in the Getty Museum in Los Angeles at the age of 20 and from that day onward, has mastered the craft and made it her own.

Her latest exhibition, *The Big Valley*, will be her solo debut in the UK. Still showing influences from that first Eggleston exhibit, Prager's photos are vibrant with highly-saturated color and have an eerily cinematic quality to them, similar to that of Alfred Hitchcock or Douglas Sirk. Her female subjects don synthetic wigs and polyester outfits, emulating the '60's, an era the photographer - born in 1979 - wasn't even alive for. Every image is staged and planned by Prager herself, and make the viewer feel like a voyeur by using odd lighting and camera angles.

Similar to her previous solo exhibit in Los Angeles entitled *Polyester*, Prager's photos in this exhibit can leave the viewer unsettled. In "Envy," a pale beauty in a tiny negligee with prosthetic legs kneels on the end of a bed with a ice cream cone in hand, dripping as if it's sat untouched for too long, next to two legs in black stockings. The image is fairly simple in content, but unexplained in a way that causes the audience to wonder what took place before and after, as if the image is just one frozen frame in a long, plot-twisting movie.

Alex Prager's exhibit, *The Big Valley*, will be showing at the Michael Hoppengallery in London April 25th - June 12th, 2008.

KELLY BRUCE

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[michaelhoppengallery.com](http://michaelhoppengallery.com)