Jerry Saltz

“Gender Benders: Visionary twists from a magnificent seven”

One argument goes that recessions are good for female artists because when money flies out the window, women are allowed in the house. The other claims that when money ebbs, so do prospects for women. Given this season'sundance of female gallery shows (30 percent, up from 17 percent in 2005), I'll go with the former. Seven of the most exciting are pictured here, and one of them, Rozi Horn, is deservedly having her first full-scale museum show.

NICOLE EISENMAN
Los Angeles Inc.  
Oct. 30 to Dec. 23
Eisenman's sharp, satirical eye, dashing graphic style, and glowing metallic colors pull you into dark but touching imaginary lands. Her large panoramic paintings alternate between figures sprawled in orgiastic mounds, Goya-inspired nightmares, and other semi-scandalous yet yummy and funny lesbian love scenes. Think of a twisted Norman Rockwell with old-master technique.

JANINE ANTONI
"Up Against"
Lubing Augustine  
Through Oct. 24
The MacArthur winner's art has always been cerebral, private, provocative, and braced in knots. The standout in her latest, captivating multimedia exhibition is a photograph of the artist suspended in midair inside a dollhouse in her daughter's bedroom—a picture so layered you feel like you need 1,000 eyes. The vision is somewhere between the horror of Silence of the Lamb, the perversion of Lolita, and Antoni's own Kafka imagination.

TAURA AUEBACH
"Here and Now/And Nowhere"  
Native Projects  
Through Oct. 17
In previous outings, this young painter—essentially a metaphysician—has contrived alphabets and covered floors with 100,000 black and white tiles laid down in random order. This time, she's providing a haunting soundtrack to her then-tense feel paintings of folded canvas: Tuesday to Sunday at 5 p.m., Auebach and Cameron Meszaros of the band Glass play their so-called Anechoic, an immense wooden pump organ that only works when two people play. Sounds like life.
For more than ten years, in eye-popping, architecturally inspired geometric paintings and mesmerizing films of our postmodern metropolises, this peripatetic artist has mapped out what Rem Koolhaas called "junkspace." That relentless border-to-border network of airports, malls, big-box stores, and air-conditioned arcades. This month, Morris unveils *Beijing*, a spellbinding journey through hotel rooms, TV control booths, the 'Club Mec,' and much more. Showing you what "now" looks like can be an optical grindstone; Morris lifts you up.

**JUSTINE KURLAND**
"This Train Is Bound for Glory"
Mitchell-Innes & Nash
Oct. 11 to Nov. 14
Kurland is known for being a stalker of wild things. Her photographs of young girls in Arcadian glades have a feeling of contemporary fairy paintings. For her latest pictures, she and her 5-year-old son traveled West in a van, capturing fellow nomads—Americans looking for America. The wastefulness and longing within this work resonate beyond the frame, perhaps because they say as much about Kurland's own wanderlust.

**RONI HORN**
"Roni Horn a.k.a. Roni Horn"
Whitney Museum of American Art
Nov. 6 to Jan. 24, 2010
Horn's art turns the repeating images of Andy Warhol into perceptual clusters of uncertainty and clarity. In this largest overview of her work to date, look left, then right, at a photo of her niece or of Horn herself. Suddenly, you wonder: Is the figure pictured different or—and this is where her work turns diabolical and absorbing—have you changed? Horn's Apollonian aesthetic will take you miles into the poetics of perception.

**SYLVIA SLEIGH**
"I-20"
Oct. 31 to Dec. 19
"There was always pictures of beautiful women but very few of handsome men, so I thought that it would be truly fair to paint handsome men for women," Sleighb once said. And she continues to do so, with panache and something like outsider purity, at the age of 93. The show will include early portraits of artists, artists, and friends, many with sevenies face "fris, all of them psychologically intense, vulnerable (how many women have painted naked penises?), and sweetly sexual. Sleighb's been overlooked for too long.