



# BlackBook

THE NEW REGIME

DEC/JAN 2012



## THE NEW CURATOR

In September of 2008, the day before Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, Candice Madey opened the doors of her brand new gallery on Orchard Street in New York. Despite the recession that followed, shuttering dozens of art spaces, On Stellar Rays flourished. The experience Madey had earned while working in a museum, an auction house, and the whitewashed corridors of Chelsea helped, no doubt. But so did her MBA.

"I'm good at being the liaison between the collector, the institution, and the artist because I'm able to talk to different types of people," Madey says over iced tea at a nearby café. "Hopefully, the artists are somewhat liberated from worrying about things like price—I'm there to give them the resources they need to make their best work."

At the moment, the Ohio native represents only seven New York-based artists, all of them "intense, visceral, and extremely intelligent." Like art-world doyennes Marian Goodman and Paula Cooper, she views her time with each as a decades-long investment. "They're friends with each other," she says. "There's a fantastic dialogue happening." Zipora Fried, for example, has completed portraits of the gallery's other artists; Clifford Owens and Maria Petschnig have teamed up on collaborations. "After I feel secure that I've accomplished something with these first seven artists," Madey explains, "I'll start to think about adding to the program."

The curatorial rigor she brings to her work is increasingly rare in an era of pop-up galleries and web forums. But Madey's unwavering dedication is paying dividends. Before vacationing in Ljubljana this August, she was on-call at the Venice Biennale. After that, the Sunday Art Fair in London. When she returned to New York, she produced a show of Owens' work at PS1, and four On Stellar Rays artists were selected for the MoMA offshoot's "Greater New York" quintennial exhibition in 2010.

"I really believe the artists I work with are making the next generation of important work," she says. "If it takes longer for people to understand, then it will just take more time." —MEGAN CONWAY

PHOTO BY NICK D'EMILIO  
LOCATION ON STELLAR RAYS