

moniquemeloche

2154 W. Division Street, Chicago, IL 60622
773.252.0299 www.moniquemeloche.com

art ltd.

critic's picks

by james yood

Jan 2014



Abigail reading Angela Davis (*An Autobiography*, 1989)
From the series *Reading Women* (2012–2014)

Carrie Schneider

C-prints
30" x 36"

Photo: courtesy the artist and moniquemeloche gallery

Carrie Schneider, who lives and works in Brooklyn, shows pieces from *Reading Women*, a new series of photographs at moniquemeloche gallery from January 11 -- February 1. This is a sweet and successful project, teasingly complex and very smart, both occupying, reformatting and extending a cliché into something rather different. Schneider photographed 34 young women, each shown sitting--in a few cases, lying--in an interior space, totally absorbed in reading. The images are almost all warm and softly illuminated by daylight; these are comfy, domestic, Vermeer-like spaces where women are both present and absent, each in control of her own environment but transported to somewhere else by the book they are reading. Schneider's titles make clear that these women are reading women--each book is authored by a woman, and in a companion series, *Books*, Schneider photographed open page spreads of these volumes. This all speaks to the tradition of Dutch or Victorian genre painting, and Schneider's predilection for showing the women in profile gives the whole a vaguely voyeuristic air, as these women are forever unaware of being observed.