

Five Artsy Things to do in L.A. This Week, Including a Super-Sized Helen of Troy, by Catherine Wagley (May 21, 2014)



Eleanor Antin, *Constructing Helen*, from *Helen's Odyssey*, 2007 © Eleanor Antin, courtesy of Ronald Feldman Fine Art

2. Dark Diva

"Frequently, she's depicted as this dumb blond," Eleanor Antin said a few years ago of Helen of Troy, the destructive beauty from Greek mythology. Antin has been fascinated by historical, mythic women since the 1970s, and when she set out to depict her own Helen of Troy in 2007, she decided she needed two Helens: a flirty, charming blond one and a dark, deep brooding one. In the photograph *Constructing Helen*, the brooding one is shown in black-and-white, her body blown up to superhuman proportions, perfectly still and covered in white powder that makes her look like marble. Normal-sized men in berets "work" on her, as if sculpting her from scratch. One, standing on a ladder to be tall enough, squeezes her nipple. This fantastically strange photograph is part of Antin's current show at Diane Rosenstein Fine Art.