

CHEIM & READ



THE NEW YORKER

OCTOBER 4, 2010

ADAM FUSS

A restlessly inventive photographer, Fuss has made some of the most exciting, mysterious, and provocative images of the past twenty years. His new show, rife with coded references to games and mythology, has multiple layers of meaning but one main subject: the snake. The largest works are photograms of tangled serpents writhing on grids of newsprint, along staff-like vertical elements or against white backgrounds, like living calligraphy. The dark allure of these pictures is both compounded and complicated by a trio of daguerreotypes nearby: two of bare mattresses, one of which is crawling with huge snakes, hung on either side of a floor-bound closeup of an utterly hairless vagina. The symbolism is far from subtle, but the effect is stunning. Through Oct. 23. (Cheim & Read, 547 W. 25th St. 212-242-7727.)

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