

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



ON PHOTOGRAPHY | By Richard B. Woodward

Top left, Tom Wood's 'Three Wise Women' (1990) at Thomas Erben. Above, Terry Evans's 'Solomon River Oxbow August 2, 1990' at Yancy Richardson. Left, a 1971 untitled photograph from Takuma Nakahira's 'Circulation' series at Yossi Milo.

**Tom Wood:
Men and Women**

◆ **Thomas Erben**
526 W. 26th St., (212) 645-8701
Through July 12

Tom Wood's portraits of the English haven't gained the notice here afforded to other British photographers (Paul Graham, Chris Kilip, Martin Parr, Graham Smith) who re-energized the documentary style in the 1970s and '80s.

That injustice should end with the publication of Mr. Wood's splendid new two-volume collection, "Men and Women" (Steidl), the basis for this selection of color

and black-and-white prints.

More than some of his stand-offish contemporaries, Mr. Wood exhibits a personal involvement, however fleeting, with his subjects, especially the old and the young. In some pictures, the background sets the mood—a flowering tree behind a teen kicking a soccer ball, the mural and windows inside an almost empty bar.

Elsewhere, it's human or animal action—an elderly woman in a nursing home gumming an egg-and-cess sandwich, a horse leaping a fence—that dominates the frame.

Whatever the situation, Mr. Wood finds unexpected harmonies and details that quietly illuminate what it is like to grow up or old. He is among the most thoughtful photographers working today, in any style.

Mr. Woodward is an arts critic in New York.

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