

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Art Pick of the Week

CHRISTOPHER FELVER: BEAT

BY PETER FRANK

Christopher Felver's explorations are anthropological. Though Felver wasn't even born when Kerouac, Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti, et. al. were ripping up the San Francisco coffeehouses, he's made it his mission to photographically document the Beat scene — but defined much more broadly than the postwar years when those serious boho types hit the streets. His mission is not to reconstitute the original Beat movement but to document its veterans and expand its purview. Thus, his slew of genial photo-portraits includes not just Burroughs and Corso, but also Stan Brakhage and Bruce Connor and Jay de Feo and Kathy Acker and David Amram and George Herms and Sun Ra and Karen Finley and Wavy Gravy and Ed Sanders and Lou Reed and Robert Frank and Bukowski and Baraka and Leary and Lamantia and Creeley and Codrescu and Kesey and Norman goddam Mailer and Hunter S. fuckin' Thompson. Fifty years young, Felver insists, Beat is in every art form, in every city, and on every lip.

"Christopher Felver: Beat" at Robert Berman, 2525 Michigan Ave., No. C2, Santa Monica (310) 315-1971.

