

the village

VOICE

By Elizabeth Hess

Gary Schneider

P.P.O.W

532 Broadway

Through June 27

In the back room of P.P.O.W, a small show of nine spooky black-and-white toned gelatin silver prints of flowers (plus an onion and some figs) by Gary Schneider tackles nature from an entirely different angle. There's nothing entertaining about Schneider's

Art

garden. Stripped of their natural colors and turned innumerable shades of gray, the flowers become morose. All together, they form a funereal bouquet, offering their dark beauty as a remembrance. One can't help but think of Mapplethorpe when Schneider transforms a poppy into a hairy scrotum, but these works do not celebrate the body, nature, or sex. "Botanicals," Schneider's title for the works, suggests a scientific investigation of the material, but what we see is more enigmatic than fact or reason. ■

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