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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

MICHELLE ELZAY

Elzay shows two series of formal studio portraits, one of uniformed fencers, the other of birds trained by falconers, both against stark white backgrounds. The results are clean and graphic, almost poster-like in their cool objectivity, and the juxtaposition of two historically élitist sports is shrewd. Any suggestion of violence is masked (sometimes literally) in refinement and elegance. The birds—including owls, hawks, and an African vulture, as well as falcons—are shown perched on clenched gloves, but, because Elzay has digitally erased their masters' arms, these fierce, alert predators appear all the more isolated and symbolic, at once the hunter and the game. Through Feb. 24. (Kasher, 521 W. 23rd St. 212-966-3978.)