

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Columbia, David Patrick and Hirsch, Jeffrey. "Angels Among Us" *New York Social Diary*. (June 11, 2018).



Angels among us

Back to New York. Last week, as I noted here on Friday, I was a guest of **Geoffrey Bradfield** at Doubles where **Leila and Henry Heller** were among the guests. Leila, as many people in the art world know, has a very successful gallery here in New York. She had just started when we met almost three decades ago. She now has galleries in Chelsea (at 568 West 25th Street), and in Dubai, and literally serving collectors across the world.



Rachel Hovnanian and Leila Heller.

She was telling me about her latest exhibition which is that of **Rachel Hovnanian**, the contemporary artist who had an opening last week of "Part III" of her "Women's Trilogy Project." Coincidentally, I have known Rachel about as long as I've known Leila. Both women were very active socially when I first started covering the scene in New York in the early 1990s. They are very much women of their generation, wives, mothers, professionals with a dynamic eye to the future.

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Rachel Lee Hovnanian's exhibition, PART II of *The Women's Trilogy Project*.



Leila was telling me this is the first time an artist will have had three sequential exhibitions in a gallery over the course of six months. It will also be Rachel's third solo show with the gallery.

In her first two exhibits, playing off the themes in **PART I** and **Part II**, Rachel explores the social constructs of consumerism and societal pressures through interactive installations, as well as a series of original marble sculptures.

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PART III of The Women's Trilogy Project.

PART III is entitled PURE, and is the final deliverance for this ambitious exhibition series. It focuses in on the iconic *Ivory Soap* bar (99 and 44/100 % pure was the slogan Americans grew with). *Part III* represents mass consumption and our obsessions with “purity” in American culture. Like her previous exhibitions, Rachel invites the audience to activate the work and confront the battle between decade old social constructs.

The Women's Trilogy Project includes three thematically related installments. Each expands on the familiar themes explored in the artist's previous body of work -- which include addiction, gender roles and our relationship with technology. Rachel's work is challenging the viewer to question gender barriers and the struggles women still face. They are also the struggles that men still face, although it is not always so noted.

