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## ART IN REVIEW: Orit Raff

by Roberta Smith

Silverstein Gallery  
520 West 21st Street, Chelsea  
Through Feb. 13

In her smart, slick debut show of color photographs, Orit Raff takes one of modernism's sacred cows, the white-on-white monochrome, and documents its occurrence in real life, mostly in domestic situations.

Not surprisingly, she finds whiteness to be ubiquitous and full of references to hygiene and the body as well as the fragility of life. Her images include a toilet bowl, the front of a folded shirt, a bathtub drain, the corner of a mirror on a white wall, a piece of paper towel with an impression from a glass, an expanse of laundry soap interrupted by a gray stain and a patch of white carpet with imprints from furniture. All are shot up close so they are nearly abstract. The viewer may think of the work of Robert Ryman or Piero Manzoni for a second or two before a detail, or the title, gives the game away.

The idea here is limited and its combination of sentimentality and high finish should not disguise its debt to a long line of Conceptual practice that was slight to begin with. Also a problem is what seems to be its unwitting resemblance to advertising photography, which is an old hand at borrowing tricks from Conceptual and Minimal Art.