

# *Feminist photography show at SDSU*

A three-woman show of black and white photography concerning feminist issues and has been organized by guest curator Jeanette Davis, contemporary art historian from San Diego State University, is opening this month in the art gallery of the Callexico campus.

Entitled "All Dressed Up and Somewhere to Go," the exhibit is a collection of work that expresses the desire of the artists to choose their own identities in a field which has a strong tradition of excluding women. The public is invited to the opening reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Mary Beth Heffernan from San Diego, Liss Platt from New York City, and

Kaucyila Brooke who teaches at Cal Arts Institute in Los Angeles are the featured artists. Their work is intended to raid the master's closet; that is, it claims for itself the privileges in art, literature, and society that males have traditionally reserved for themselves. Heffernan's photographs, printed on animal pelts, recall nude figures from art, commerce, and religion which are, in the original versions, thinly disguised fetish objects. In a further challenge to the voyeuristic bent of our society, Brooke has produced a seven-panel visual collage with a running text confronting this same issue as it relates to women. Platt works in the style of high Modernist photography, but she

disrupts the sensual beauty of her photographs with reminders of the male presence influencing all art production and reception.

In addition to the photography, Platt will also exhibit a collaborative video which confronts the constructed nature of gender identity. Heffernan will present a lecture on this topic in the gallery at 8 p.m. following the reception.

"Some of the themes in this exhibit challenge issues we tend to take for granted," said gallery Director Sheila Dollente, "but these artists base their work on a thorough understanding of how Western art history, literature, psychology, and social conventions have

imposed certain identities on the community, especially the community of women. Especially remarkable in their art is their incorporation of humor as a vehicle to present the issues. This feminism is strong, but never strident, and it continually questions itself as it challenges patriarchy."

"All Dressed Up and Somewhere to Go" was shown in January in the Everett Gee Jackson Master's Program Gallery on the San Diego campus. It will continue at the university gallery of the Imperial Valley Campus through March 1, 1993. The gallery is located in the Administration Building, 720 Heber Ave., Callexico.