

## Tad Beck: Palimpsest @ LACMA

September 2nd, 2010 — by julianne in Museums, Photography, Shows



If you haven't yet explored **LACMA's *Manly Pursuits*** exhibition, here's another possible incentive. Los Angeles-based photographer and video installation artist **Tad Beck** provides a supplement to the show with *Palimpsest*, a response to Thomas Eakins's *Grafly Album*, a collection of near-nude photographs of Eakins's students.

With a precise sense of modernity, Beck emulates Eakins's photographs using his contemporaries as models, their bodies repositioned and placed in the original photographic settings. Underscoring his manipulation of the Eakins images, Beck includes anachronistic elements such as wristbands and modern hairstyles.

To create the body of *Palimpsest*, Beck surrounded the photographs with silver repoussé frames, occasionally obscuring heads and limbs. Beck then photographed each framed image against a monochromatic black background, enlarging and printing the images in 42-inch squares. This process generates an austere, minimal product, standing in stark contrast to the ornate, softened nature of the late-19th-century aesthetic ethos.

Find more at **LACMA**.

### **Tad Beck / Palimpsest**

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