

## Girls on Film

"Ophelia Rising," Temple Gallery's new photography exhibit, posits that far from sinking like stones in the river, today's young heroines paddle upstream and live to love another day. The images by eight female photographers might not prove the curatorial point, but together they make a nice essay on the complex identities of today's young women and girls. Eight points of view are represented—from lyrical and romantic to fantasy to documentary. And if any one image debunks the Shakespearean Ophelia it's Judith Joy Ross' *P.F.C. Maria I. Leon, U.S. Army Reserve, on Red Alert*, an image of a fiercely vigilant young Army private in cap and camouflage uniform caught street-side as she performs her duties. Straightforward and documentary in its approach, *P.F.C.* is as close to truth as it comes, specimen-like in its clarity to present one woman on the job. Nzingah Muhammad's formal portraits of unsmiling young African-American women (herself included) in traditional Muslim garb, on the other hand, are like anti-documents, photographs seared with the charged point of view of their maker. Many of the works here pose questions about girls and women, mothers and daughters, roles and role-reversals. Art isn't anthropology and the exhibit isn't Shakespeare. But it alludes to eight photographers' desires to create a better future for young women. And who can argue with that? (R.F.) >> Through March 9. College Art Association Reception, Thurs., Feb. 21, 5-7:30pm. Temple Gallery, 45 N. Second St. 215.925.7379. [www.temple.edu](http://www.temple.edu)

Roberta Fallon