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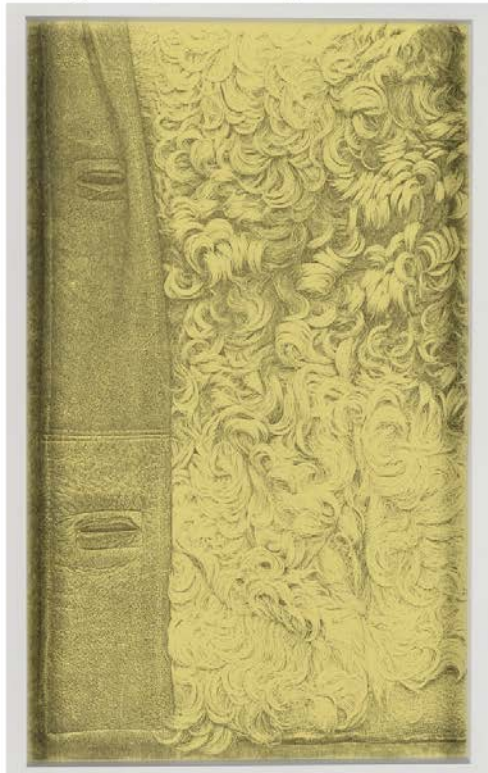
From Photocopiers to Fresh Laundry: The Unexpected Tools of Four Pioneering Artists



2 WEEKS AGO by **REPOST**



Whether it was using photocopiers to shift our understanding of reality, sowing plants to a poetic effect, or making prints as a way to conceptualize absence, many artists featured in 'OVR: Pioneers' have developed innovative techniques to contextualize their medium of choice. The practitioners below not only expanded the fields of sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking, but also challenged their very definition.



Left: Pati Hill, *Untitled (fur coat)*, 1977-1979. Right: Pati Hill, *Untitled (rose)*, 1990. © Photo Marc Domage. Courtesy of Air de Paris, Romainville.

Replicating Reality

Dedicating her early life in America to writing novels, poetry, and short stories, Pati Hill (1921–2014) came to the visual arts later on and employed a photocopier – specifically the IBM-Copier II – as one of her mediums. Although other artists had used this technique of reproduction prior to Hill, her emphasis on the specificity and idiosyncrasies of objects is notable. Copies of flowers, clothing, and tools first appeared opposite her writing in *Slave Days* (1975), a poetry collection created in response to having a child and living a domestic life. She subsequently compiled the series ‘Alphabet of Common Objects’ in the late 1970s, works from which are included in **Air de Paris**’s (Romainville) presentation. In her meticulously detailed xerographs, the cracked leather lines of a pair of gloves contrast the smooth, shiny surface of buttons; the sheepskin lining of a jacket fills a picture plane with tender locks; hair curlers look like geometric abstractions. Ultimately, Hill used photocopies as a starting point from which words could weave new webs, enabling us to wander into another realm.