

*Art*

**Body Painter Emma Hack Gives Still-Life Art a Whole New Meaning**

by Katherine Bernard



Australian artist **Emma Hack** paints women into wallpaper, and yet, somehow they stand out. If her name doesn't ring a bell, you're probably already familiar with her work. Hack painted singers **Gotye** and **Kimbra** for the music video of the 2012 viral hit "[Somebody That I Used to Know](#)," spending a painstaking 23 hours straight to convey the story of the song on the subjects and the set: in it, it's as if the singers accuse each other of stepping out of their relationship as carelessly as one might leave a room. For the video, Hack blended the singers into a reconfiguration of a painting originally by Gotye's father: a geometric design of intersecting lines and triangles. For her first solo show in New York at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery now on view through March 12, she went into interior designer Florence Broadhurst's archives, selecting prints to paint onto her models' bodies, camouflaging them completely with patterns that are somehow serene, though admittedly stir longings for a lush living room. These pieces tackle more organic forms, recalling the self-portraits model **Yeruschka** created with **Holger Trülzsch** in the 1970s. To create the seamless blend in her photos, Hack sets up a camera and, after painting each stroke, looks through the lens to ensure that the design she originally envisioned is perfectly matched. Before the opening of her show last week, *Vogue* got a behind-the-scenes look at her artistic process, capturing the live creation of *Tropical Floral*, a wallpaper that looks like a more intricate, whimsical version of the famed walls at Indochine in New York. Watch as Hack paints fronds across her model's face and expertly bring the ferns and flowers to life on a human canvas.

