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AUGUST 03, 2010

Jane Fulton Alt's 'Crude Awakening'

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Last month, Jane Fulton Alt posted her latest photographic series, *Crude Awakening*. The images, clearly meant to draw attention to the Gulf oil spill, are impossible to ignore.

After seeing the massive fire consume the Deepwater Horizon oil-rig, she, like everyone else, was inspired to help, but her contribution took a different path.

This series, unlike the majority of the commentary on the spill, doesn't unequivocally blame BP. The provocative images are certainly critical of the company, but the oil coating the bodies of Fulton Alt's subjects seems to imply something more. Could the artist be suggesting that, on some level, we're all responsible for the spill? Do we all have 'oil on our hands'? If we weren't so dependent on the oil, would this have happened in the first place?

Without contributing millions of dollars, or even making her way down to the Gulf, she's found a way to reach everyone, and make any sane person question their environmental stance. As BP starts their *Static Kill* operation, a new CEO takes over the company, and more studies reveal the extent of the spill's damage, the more reminders of its consequences the better— especially if those reminders are stellar photographs.

—KATE SIEGEL

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