

FEATURING: Treasures of the Persian empire, and the hunt for the British rifles fired on Bloody Sunday

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A WOMAN'S TOUCH

Men see sex; women look for poetry. How three women photographers view the female form

Left: Josephine Sacabo's portrait of a woman sleeping. 'I wanted to show women do other things in bed than make love,' she says. Below: Walking the Crocs, from Vee Speers's new series of photographs of eccentric Parisians



Extraordinary things can happen when women take pictures of other women. The subjects are often freer to act out their erotic fantasies and to reveal their true selves. Three photographers give a rare glimpse into a secret feminine world. Katharine Hibbert reports

FEMALE BONDING

RENEE FALCKE

Born in Berlin, Falcke has worked in Paris since 1980. She is now freelance, having spent more than two decades with United Press International and Gruner + Jahr

"I took these photos [left and below] when I was living in Paris in the 1960s. It was an amazing time for me and for everyone who was young then. I was a fashion photographer, and these are from a shoot I did for *Jardin des Modes*, a French style magazine. I never wanted just to display the clothes; in these pictures, I was trying to show how I felt as a woman in the world. The model, Marielle, understood that. We met soon after I moved to Paris, and she will always be the definition of a Parisienne in my mind. I loved how she looked, so feminine, so soft. I often photographed her, and we became friends. I found this scrapheap (left) on the edge of Paris. I wanted to show



the contrast between Marielle's beauty and that brutal destruction, her vulnerability and those motorcycle clothes. She could act, so I asked her to cry. Her face was lovely when she wept. When we worked together, it was collaboration."



JOSEPHINE SACABO

Texas-born Sacabo — who cites Henri Cartier-Bresson as an influence — studied in New York before starting a career in photojournalism. She lives in New Orleans. Her images (above, left and below) exude a ghostly, luminous quality "I find my models incredibly beautiful. I try to create photos of them alone with themselves, as if I'm not there, or as if I'm a child looking at something I don't understand and am not part of. I find myself responding sympathetically to the feelings they express, whether they're erotic, sad or ecstatic. They move me. I want anyone who looks at the images — man or woman — to share that."

