

THE ARTIST

The Carmel Valley artist who rants about politics and curses like a sailor? She's frequently name-dropped by the *NY Times*, been profiled by PBS and had solo shows at the Whitney. SDMA recently paid homage to **Eleanor Antin** by showing her large-scale photographs, in which actors posing as ancient Greeks and Romans live it up, blissfully unaware of impending doom. Modern parallels? You bet. Antin is scribing *Conversations with Stalin*, a faux memoir about growing up a "red-diaper baby" in '50s New York (the true story: Antin was born in NYC to socialist immigrant parents). Each chapter ends with young "Elly" walking through Central Park with Stalin, who doles out futile advice. Antin shares a ravine-spanning home studio with a life-size skeleton, who cameos in her art. The UCSD professor emeritus still bustles with ideas, including one for her own death. "It should be at the end of a work," Antin says, "after I've said 'cut' to the last image." —AS



STAGED CRAFT: The inimitable art of Eleanor Antin (that's her with the beard).