

March 30, 2009

ROBERT D'ALESSANDRO

"Glory," the title of D'Alessandro's 1973 book of photographs, is as understated and as charged as his pictures, each of which includes an American flag. Still timely more than three decades later, twenty-five of those pointedly black-and-white images remind us that, where the stars and stripes are concerned, ambivalence, irreverence, and jingoistic display are nothing new. One of D'Alessandro's flags is partly covered by a Malcolm X poster, one hangs near a "Wanted" poster for H. Rap Brown, and another drapes the couch under a naked, long-haired man whose lower legs are missing. The mood is brooding and disillusioned; the humor, pitch black. Through May 9. (Gitterman, 170 E. 75th St. 212-734-7430)

Vince Aletti