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Arts & Reviews

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Humaneyes

At: Judi Rotenberg Gallery, 130 Newbury St.,
through Aug. 5. 617-437-1518, judirotenberg.com

Animal instincts

We see ourselves in everything, not just landscapes. "Humaneyes," the summer group show at Judi Rotenberg Gallery, takes animals and our projections onto them as a subject. It's a charming exhibit, if a little short on ferocity. Jill Greenberg's photos of

posed monkeys give her subjects a spooky allure — the critter in "Monkeysuit" offers a coy look from under lowered brows that Princess Diana might have trademarked.

Ria Brodell makes delightfully odd drawings that delineate an elaborate fantasy world featuring odd beasts in strange places. Jennifer Amadeo-Holl's animals are secondary to her expert technique; they rise and fall out of mists of paint that disrupt our expectations of space and read like dreams. Only Rune Olsen addresses animals' wild side, in three small but provocative sculptures in which pairs of animals engage in what might be grooming, foreplay, or attack. Olsen deliciously blurs boundaries between friendship, sexual relationship, and enmity.