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ART IN REVIEW

'Pool Party'

Yossi Milo
552 West 24th Street, Chelsea
Through Aug. 6

The seasonal theme is no surprise, but the rich selection of pictures of people in and around swimming pools by 37 photographers is. "Pool Party" is also truly partylike in that much of its fun is in the unexpected conversations crisscrossing the room.

Three pieces hanging close to one another are Slim Aarons's almost supernaturally lucid image of elegant, "Stepford"-style women seated by the pool of a Richard Neutra house; Andrea Modica's mysterious black-and-white picture of a young man standing in a small, steaming outdoor pool and an older, fully dressed man seated on a wall close to the pool; and Lauren Greenfield's color picture of a skinny bleached blonde posing for a spring-break bikini contest before hundreds of leering young men. Traveling from Mr. Aarons's Modernist kitsch to Ms. Modica's enigmatic intimacy to Ms. Greenfield's visceral sociology is an excellent intellectual adventure.

There are many evocative one-on-one juxtapositions, too, like Mel Roberts's picture of a handsome adolescent emerging from a California hotel pool, hanging just above Paul D'Amato's picture of a less attractive teenage boy slouched in an inflated blue pool on an urban sidewalk.

Marvelous individual pictures abound as well, like Diane Arbus's sleazily sexy couple on a chaise at a singles club; O. Winston Link's Magrillesque vision of a massive locomotive charging past an outdoor public pool; and Susan Lipper's poignantly comical nocturnal picture of three wet, pie-eyed middle-aged beer-drinking men standing in an above-ground backyard pool.

KEN JOHNSON